THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

S. Africa scraps hospital apartheid

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's reformist government said Wednesday it would immediately abolish radical segregation in most state hospitals. Anti-apartheid doctors welcomed the move, which scraps decades of segregation in more than 240 hospitals. "The government has decided that the available capacity of beds in all hospitals must be accessible to all persons and that a model be designed to manage this in an orderly fashion," Health and Population Development Minister Rina Venter told parliament. She told a news conference the reform was effective immediately but added she expected hospital supervisors would need some time to make the necessary practical changes. The move has no bearing on 44 whites-only hospitals governed by the separate health services, welfare and housing ministry but an announcement on major changes in their administration is expected later this week. Venter, making the latest in a series of reforms announced or proposed this month by President F.W. de Klerk's eight-month-old government, said that before any new hospitals could be built the government should launch a study of health care nationwide.

Assad gestures to independents

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's new parliament — to be elected May 22 — will have one-third of its 250 seats reserved for independent members, President Hafez Al Assad said Wednesday. Addressing the opening session of the Students Union Congress, Assad said elections were not being held only on a party basis but would include non-party candidates. Parliament is to be expanded from 195 to 250 seats and officials said the increase was being devoted to independents. In the old parliament, independents had 33 members with the other seats held by the National Progressive Front (NPF). The front, led by the Baath Party and grouping four others — the Communist Party, the Socialist Union, Socialist Unionist, Arab Socialist — has named its candidates in all Syrian cities. Under Syria's election system, seats are allocated to region according to population, with the NPF nominating two-thirds of candidates and independents on separate lists competing for the remaining one-third. Assad said although many countries believed elections on a party basis were best, Syria had its own way which gave non-party members a large share.

Volume 15 Number 4392 AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 17-18, SHAWWAL 21-22, 1410 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1. 50 dirhams

JEA gets JD 6m debenture loan

AMMAN (Petra) — A consortium of four local Jordanian banks and financial institutions will grant the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) a JD 6 million debenture loan under an agreement signed at the JEA Wednesday. The consortium pledges to cover the nominal value of the bonds to be issued by JEA, a process which will begin May 30. Interest on the bonds, the first of their kind in the Kingdom, will be determined every six months but will be linked to interest rates on the latest issue of government bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan on behalf of the treasury. The loan agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and the directors of the banks in the consortium.

Petra correspondents recalled home

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to withdraw four correspondents working full-time for the Jordan News Agency, Petra, from four Arab countries in keeping with its policy of cutting down on expenses, but it said it would appoint freelance reporters to do their work. Those affected are Tareq Khouri, Hamed Abbadi, and Majed Siyam stationed in Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad respectively and for whom the decision to return will take effect as of August 1990 and Kassab Samawi, who is stationed in Tunis, and will be returning to Amman in November 1990, according to a government statement here Wednesday.

Mubarak in London

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in London Wednesday for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The president made no statement on arrival at London's Heathrow airport in a private Boeing 707, accompanied by his wife Suzanne. He flew here from Moscow where he had talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Begin in hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, 76, was taken to hospital Wednesday after feeling ill, Israel Radio said. Begin has suffered from heart problems and was last in hospital for fatigue in August. Doctors said he was in stable conditions and undergoing tests but his illness was not connected to the heart problems, the radio reported.

Sammy Davis Jr. dies at 64

BEVERELY HILLS (AP) — Sammy Davis Jr., the wiry song-and-dance man whose carefree charm and bejeweled style helped make him an entertainment institution, died Wednesday after an eight-month fight with cancer. He was 64. Davis died at 5:59 a.m. (1259 GMT) at his home in Beverly Hills, said his publicist Susan Reynolds. She would not discuss who was with him when he died. The health of the performer had deteriorated steadily since his release from Cedars-Sinai Medical centre on March 13, when he went home to his wife of 20 years, Altovise. He had been admitted in January for treatment of a gum infection. Doctors later found that he had a recurrence of throat cancer, and no further chemotherapy was planned. His cancer was first diagnosed in September 1989.

Nathan faces police questioning

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan Wednesday was handed a summons for police interrogation on suspicion of meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders in violation of Israeli law. Nathan, who was released from prison in February after serving four months for a similar offense, was met by police officials just after arriving in Israel from Paris. He was ordered to appear at the police station in the central Israeli town of Petah Tikvah Thursday.

Iraq had information of an impending attack — Ramadan

'Aggression was going to be greater than 1981 Israeli attack on nuclear reactor'

'Rafsanjani agrees in principle to meeting Saddam Hussein'

By a Jordan Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

IRAQ HAD information that it was targetted for a military assault much larger in magnitude than the 1981 Israeli bombing of its nuclear reactor, and leaks that Baghdad had advance warning of the plan appear to have aborted the planned assault, according to Taha Yassin Ramadan, the country's first deputy prime minister.

"Iraq is well prepared and will retaliate for any attack on its territory," Ramadan was quoted as saying in an interview published in Egypt's Al Ahali Arabic-language daily on Wednesday.

In the interview, Ramadan, who is number two after President Saddam Hussein in the Baghdad hierarchy, also said that Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani had accepted in principle a proposal by President Hussein for a face-to-face meeting to discuss peace between the two countries after eight years of war and two years of a "no-war-no-peace" situation.

"No one realises the nature of the problems of the two countries more than the Iraqis and Iranians themselves," Ramadan was quoted as saying by Al Ahali. "The Iranians have agreed in principle to the (proposed) meeting provided that preparations for it were made by representatives of both sides," he said.

"We are now in the process of obtaining information on the mission of these representatives, and the date and venue of the summit," Ramadan said. 'Our reply to the Iranians will be positive since direct dialogue can lead to far speedier results than that could be obtained through international organisations," he added in an apparent reference to the stalled U.N.-mediated Iran-Iraq negotiations which followed the 1988 August ceasefire which ended the war.

In his disclosure of an impending attack on Iraq, Ramadan did not name the involved party, but it was obvious was that the Iraqi leader was referring to Israel, particularly that President Hussein announced last month that his country had binary chemical weapons and warned that it would use them to retaliate if the Jewish state attacked.

"We were expecting a far bigger attack than that the one in 1981 (when Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor); the fact that the assault did not take place until now is due to the fact that news of the plan was leaked," Ramadan told Al Ahali.

According to Ramadan, Iraq "refrained from revealing (its) knowledge about the enemy plans until (it) was fully prepared to counter it."

"When the imperialist forces saw that Iraq had won the war with Iran, they realised that this victory will not remain confined to Iraq's geographical location but would extend to the Arab depth," Al Ahali quoted Ramadan as saying.

Ramadan also disclosed that it was proven that Farzad Bazoft, a London-based Iranian journalists who was executed by Iraq early this year after he was found guilty of spying for Israel, had "paved the way for Israel to attack the headquarters of he Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis a few years back."

"The spy case was followed by the episodes about an Iraqi 'supergun' and fabricated stories about Iraq as a country which does not respect human rights, deals with dangerous weapons and supports terrorism," Ramadan said.

"These claims were intended to prepare the ground for Israel to launch an aggression on Iraq, the Iraqi leader said.

The May 28 Arab summit in Baghdad, Ramadan said, will deal with the central theme of how to confront with the escalating threats against Iraq, and the dangers posed to the Palestinian uprising, "which is the target of plots at eliminating it, raising the prospect of a catastrophe no less disastrous than that of 1948."

Parliament to meet next month; government works fast on laws

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Parliament is expected to be convened for an extraordinary session in the first week of next month, and the government is working at a fast pace to prepare all laws it has promised to present to the legislative body by then, according to a senior government official.

"We are working very hard to have all promised legislation ready to be presented to Parliament," the official said Wednesday. "There are extra cabinet meetings and other related work and we are sure that every piece of legislation that the government has promised will be presented in time," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Parliament, which went into summer recess late in March, was expected to be convened in an extraordinary session early this month. The official explained that in addition to preparing legislation the government was also heavily involved in the run-up to an extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Baghdad May 28, and therefore it was decided that Parliament could begin the extraordinary session in early June.

Members of the Lower House met early this month and decided that its agenda during the extraordinary session should remain open. It is not clear yet how the parliamentarians hoped to achieve that in light of the constitutional provision that the King himself specifies the agenda for any extraordinary session of Parliament.

Probe into Ramtha clashes

The government official disclosed that investigations were continuing into clashes which took place Sunday night at the Ramtha border point between security forces and a group of people who wanted to cross into Syria without proper documents. He confirmed that between 20 and 30 people were being held in connection with the incident, and would be indicted with related charges depending on the outcome of inquiries conducted by the prosecutor-general.

The official emphasised that the criminal code of the civil law would govern the case and that "in no event will martial law provisions be applied."

Legislation expected to be submitted to Parliament next month includes substitue laws for the 1935 defence law and martial law provisions, which were frozen early this year by the government of Mudar Badran. "The only actute exception where martial law will be applied is the case of Petra Bank," which was taken over by the government using martial law provisions in August last year, the official said.

The government had no specific indication that Syria would or would not attend the May 28 summmit in Baghdad, but "there are a number of options being discussed now to find a formula" to ensure the success of the conference, the official said without elaboration.

Syria, long at odds with Iraq, has said that it would not attend the summit if it was held in Baghdad. One of the theories that are being advanced, according to reports in the Gulf, is that the participation in the conference by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz might force the Syrian hand and compel President Hafez Al Assad to attend too.

"The opposite also holds true," commented an analyst. "If King Fahd does not attend, then Assad also would not go." Saudi Arabia as well as Iraq have said that the monarch would attend the summit.

'Common vision'

According to the Jordanian official, the central theme of the summit will be "the state of pan-Arab security, and all issues that fall under this umbrella, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq situation, Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, water resources, among others."

The official said he expected that Arab foreign ministers also are expected to meet May 22 would come up with a "working paper containing certain options" over pan-Arab security and present it to the summit. "What Jordan expects from the summit is a common Arab vision towards entering the 1990s, and it hopes that the Arab leaders gathered in Baghdad will contribute to drawing up such a vision," he explained.

The official rejected suggestions that the government was under "attack" following violent incidents that marred Monday's "Right of Return" March when security forces used tear-gas to disperse a group of demonstrators who wanted to proceed to the King Hussein Bridge from a point about two kilometres from the bridge. "Even the organisers of the march have agreed that the security forces had no other alternative to disperse the crowd," the official said. "The situation and incidents were no different from any other country, where the security forces and organisers agree on a specific point of destination and any attempt to go further than that point will be countered with force," he said.

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18 shot and wounded in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians said Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 18 Palestinians in clashes in the occupied territories Wednesday.

Twelve were wounded by gunfire in a confrontation between soldiers and activists in the West Bank village of Tubas, near Nablus, they said.

The army said it found the body of a Palestinian killed by unknown assailants for alleged collaboration with Israeli forces.

In the West Bank town of Jenin, Palestinians said Ahmad Abu Nijma, 30, was killed by activists who suspected he collaborated with Israeli forces. Three Palestinians were wounded in Jenin and three in the Gaza Strip, reports said.

The mayor of a West Bank town accused Israeli soldiers of scrawling anti-Muslim slogans on a mosque.

Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Hanoun said he had protested in a telegram to the occupation authorities about the vandalism which he said was unprecedented in his town.

"Between midnight and four in the morning bad words were written on the door and the wall of the mosque. They were very bad words against Muslims in Hebrew," Hanoun told Reuters.

"I should say the army itself did it because during the night (Jewish) settlers are not allowed to enter the city," he said, adding that three days ago soldiers patrolling the town cursed the Muslim religion over loudspeakers.

Hanoun said an Israeli official had visited the mosque to inspect the damage.

Two-thirds of the estimated 110,000 Palestinian workers in Israel have no social or legal protection, according to a report published Wednesday by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The remaining third, said the report, have to "pay dearly for protection... and have to contribute to a tax system from which they do not seem to benefit.

The ILO offered its help in setting up a protective system to "redress a situation which is clearly unfair and which arouses both controversy and frustration."

The 132-page report, prepared for the annual ILO conference opening in Geneva June 6, said there has been no improvement during the past year in the situation of the workers from the occupied territories and their families.

It said that Israeli management of the economy in the West Bank and Gaza resulted in the growth of national income in the territories "but at a price, namely economic dependence on Israel."

The stepped up establishment

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt will help Iraq in event of attack — Riad

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad Wednesday expressed the view that Egypt would come to the help of Iraq in the event that the latter was exposed to an Israeli aggression. Egypt will be acting in line with the principles and the spirit of the joint Arab Defence Pact, he said.

Egypt, like Iraq, is member of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and it will not hesitate to join Iraq in defending Arab soil, Riad said in an interview on Jordan Television.

The Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt do not exist any more simply because Israel does not honour any agreement or commitments, Riad said on the weekly programme "Meet the Press."

Riad called for a greater measure of cohesion among Arab countries to foil Israel's expansionist plans, and added that the rich Arab states should provide material and financial assistance to the Arab states confronting Israel.

The former Arab League secretary general expressed his view that Iraq would become, in 10 years time, the most powerful force in the Middle East militarily, economically and technologically.

Israel and the Western nations are trying with all their force to weaken Iraq hence the on-going hostile campaign against Iraq," he said. "Iraq has all the right to pursue efforts and carry out programmes designed to strengthen the Iraqi armed forces to repel aggression, and the Iraqi president is to be highly commended for spearheading this endeavour," he added.

The Camp David accord has become non-existent simply because of Israel's continued violations of its terms and provisions, Riad said. "Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, its annexation of Arab Jerusalem, making the city the "undivided" capital of the Jewish state, its seizure of Arab land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to build Jewish settlements are all violations of the accord," he said.

Extension fails to draw more than one- third of Zarqa voters

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

ZARQA — Just about one third of this city's eligible voters cast their ballots in their first municipal elections since 1978 despite a one-day extension of the voting process, election officials said Wednesday.

The officials said that only 21,943 (12,691 male and 9,252 female) voters of the 63,000-strong eligible electorate had cast their ballots before the polling centres closed at 5 p.m. Wednesday. On the first day, Tuesday, only 17,000 had voted, prompting the authorities to extend the process for another day.

Vote counting started at 7 p.m. Wednesday, and first results of the elections to the 10-seat municipal council for the second largest city of the Kingdom were not expected until midnight or early Thursday, officials said. Fifty-four candidates representing several self-styled blocs were contesting the elections.

According to some election observers, one of the reasons for the poor voter turnout was an "alphabetical system" adopted by the authorities under which many voters had go to distant areas to vote. The observers blamed the absence of a "municipal constituency" system under which specific zones should have been allocated to the voters.

Some of the observers also noted that many of the city's eligible voters were expatriates who could not visit their hometown to take part in the voting. In addition, a good part of the city's population is made up by workers whose working hours stretch beyond 5 p.m. which rendered them unable to reach the polling centres in time for voting, others said.

However, the pervading feeling in the city was one of "voter apathy," according to several residents of the city, which is surrounded by many major industries of the Kingdom.

Despite the pointedly low voter turnout, the city's governor, Mohammad Shobaki, expressed satisfaction with the process. He said no untoward incident was reported and the voting was con-

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Moscow says U.S. should open door wider for Soviet immigrants

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has called on the United States to open its doors to Soviet Jews to prevent them settling in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, following talks in Moscow Tuesday with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Esmat Abdul Meguid, told MENA most Soviet Jews would prefer to emigrate to the United States.

MENA said Shevardnadze, in response to a request from Abdul Meguid, had agreed to raise with Washington the subject of preventing Soviet Jews from settling in the occupied territories.

The number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel shot up dramatically in recent months after Moscow eased travel restrictions and Washington set quotas on the numbers it would allow to settle.

Earlier Tuesday Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a declaration condemning the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

In a dinner speech, Gorbachev described it as "immoral".

"Pushing people who resettle in Israel to this means to dangerously and immorally play with their fates," he said at the dinner in honour of Mubarak in the Kremlin.

"We urgently press for the Israeli leadership to give up these perfidious schemes. We insist that the U.N. Security Council take a decision, making it incumbent to observe international laws."

"There is a strong anti-Soviet element here," he added, without explaining what he perceived as anti-Soviet.

In Washington, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia Tuesday told President George Bush of the Arab World's alarm over the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories and Bush agreed that Israel should not settle Jews in the territories.

But Bush also supported the flow of Jews allowed out of the Soviet Union to Israel in recent months, said Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly.

Bush "stated our position of opposition to the settlement of people in the occupied territories," Kelly said, briefing reporters about the Oval Office talks, which included a 20-minute one-on-one meeting after which aides were brought in.

"The president did reiterate our support for emigration from the Soviet Union and the right of Soviet Jews to settle in Israel within the boundaries that existed before 1967," he added.

Kelly said Bush took the opportunity to discuss with Ben Ali the upcoming summit of Arab leaders scheduled in Baghdad next week. The summit is expected to focus on concerns about the Soviet emigres to Israel and on recent accusations by the United States and Britain that Iraq is developing nuclear weapons and threatening to attack Israel.

Kelly said the two leaders also talked about the need for movement in the Arab-Israeli peace process and the U.S. desire "to resume efforts when a new government is formed in Israel..."

Superpowers see major problems facing START

MOSCOW (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnade agreed Wednesday that they still faced substantial problems in reaching a strategic arms reduction treaty (START).

Arriving for the start of three days of crucial talks with Baker, Shevardnadze said the Soviet side would present new proposals but gave no details..

"Indeed, there is still substantive work to be done and this is what we are going to begin to do now," he said.

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to try to achieve a broad START accord in time for their Washington summit when they last met in Malta in December.

But with less than two weeks to go until the May 30 summit opens, there are still major gaps on how to deal with air- and sea-launched cruise missiles in the treaty as well as a number of questions.

Baker disclosed earlier Wednesday that the United States had presented new START proposals when he met Shevardnadze in Bonn earlier this month and had received preliminary Soviet responses.

But these had not been sufficient to bridge the gap.

Shevardnadze told reporters before his session with Baker at the Soviet Foreign Ministry that because "we are able to discuss any problem shows we have reached a new frontier."

He also pledged to try to speed work on the arms-control agreements. "We have been working very intensively," Shevardnadze said.

"What I received in Bonn from the secretary of state was useful and I believe our response was constructive, but indeed there is still substantive work to be done and this is what we are going to begin to do now," Shevardnadze said.

Both ministers stressed the importance of resolving the issues so that their leaders could announce to the world a treaty enshrining deep cuts in several categories of nuclear weapons — 50 per cent in some cases.

Lithuanians push for negotiations

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuanian leaders met Wednesday in a new attempt to unblock independence talks with Moscow and visiting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressed alarm about the growing crisis in the Baltic republics.

"We are trying to get Moscow to sit down and talk," said Lithuanian parliamentary spokeswoman Rita Dapkus before the meeting of the parliament's ruling praesidium.

"But so far, no matter what we have been offering, we have come up against a brick wall. But whatever concessions we offer, we will not freeze our independence declaration itself," she added.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene told Soviet Television Tuesday that the republic might consider modifying its March 11 independence bid with a "transition period."

In Moscow, Baker said the situation in the Baltic republics was "not encouraging."

هكذا من الأصل

Study reports widespread abuse of Arab children by Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — A study sponsored by the Swedish Save the Children Charity accused Israeli troops of systematic violence against Palestinian children during the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The 1,000-page report, released Thursday, said 159 children under the age of 16 were killed in the first two years of the uprising and estimated that between 50,000 and 63,000 were injured by gunfire, beatings or tear gas.

"The violence employed against Palestinian children, in the context of the Israeli military authorities' violent attempts to suppress the intifada (uprising), is seen to be severe, indiscriminate, multi-dimensional and recurrent," it said.

The conclusions sparked an immediate angry reaction from the Israeli army, given an advance copy by the author. An official military source said Palestinian leaders exploited children as front-line rioters and glorified them as martyrs.

"This is part of the manipulation of children by the intifada. They send them out into the streets to demonstrate and urge them on to violence, then they blame us for casualties," the source said.

"The suggestion that we intentionally attack children is totally rejected. It is obscene," he said.

Military sources denied that a single child had been killed by tear gas. The study says there were 31 such deaths in the first year of the revolt alone.

Israeli human rights organisations have criticised the killing of children during the 29-month-old revolt but none has claimed such high casualty figures. U.S. researcher Anne Nixon, who wrote the report, said children suffered enduring harm not only from shooting and beating but also from widespread collective punishments such as curfews, home demolitions and the closure of schools.

The secretary general of Swedish Save the Children, Thomas Hammarberg, wrote in an introduction: "The violations... can not be dismissed as only a few cases of misconduct by individual soldiers. They are massive and systematic. They reflect a governmental policy."

Palestinian resistance to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not exonerate Israel from responsibility for violations of children's rights, he said.

The report said a case-by-case study showed that half the children killed were not involved in unrest and many were in or just outside their homes at the time.

It said Israel's military justice system largely turned a blind eye to violence against Palestinian children.

Betselem, an award-winning Israeli human rights group, said only one soldier had been jailed — for two months — in 102 cases of child deaths which it investigated.

"Researchers for this report have documented indiscriminate beating, teargassing, and shooting of children at home or just outside the house, playing in the street, sitting in the classroom or going to the store for groceries," Nixon wrote.

The report added: "The documentation reveals that many soldiers consider Palestinian children's lives to be of little worth."

Brazilian scientists reportedly help Iraq in missile

SAO PAULO, Brazil (Agencies) — Brazilian scientists and engineers are working in Baghdad helping Iraq build a missile originally designed in Brazil, two leading publications reported this week.

Veja, Brazil's most important weekly, said engineers who had worked on a Brzilian heat-seaking missile called the Piranha have been working in Baghdad since November on a secret missile project.

Air Force Ministry spokesman Major Antonio Ribeiro said the government had no immediate comment.

The ministry wants to determine whether Iraq is copying the Piranha missile, Rio de Janeiro daily O Globo said Tuesday.

Development of the Piranha, named after the ferocious Amazon fish, was stopped in Brazil two years ago for lack of funds.

Iraq is willing to pay $10 million for the Piranha design and computer software, Veja said in an unsourced report.

O Globo said the Brazilian engineers make up an international team in Baghdad including technicians from Egypt, France, Argentina and Britain.

On Tuesday Iraq angrily denied it was planning to build a huge gun following the seizure in Britain, Turkey, Italy and West Germany of what Britain says are parts of a massive cannon.

Meanwhile experts suspect that tons of machinery seized recently at Frankfurt airport are parts for an Iraqi "super cannon," West German television said Tuesday.

Customs authorities seized 17 cases containing 37 tons of machinery and hydraulic equipment destined for Iraq, officials said.

Frankfurt Chief Prosecutor Hubert Harth said Tuesday authorities were investigating whether the seized equipment was linked to the "super cannon."

The long-range weapon is allegedly capable of firing nuclear or chemical warheads into Israel and Iran. Several European countries have seized tons of similar equipment. Iraq has denied the parts are for a weapon.

Harth said the equipment was seized in the last week of April. He said weapons experts and investigators are checking the parts.

The ZDF television network said experts believe the parts could be used for the "super cannon." It gave no other details.

Harth said the equipment was made in Switzerland, England, Belgium and other European countries, and authorities are investigating whether West German companies were also involved.

The machinery was declared as oil industry equipment ordered by the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and had been slated to be flown to Baghdad by Iraqi Airways, he said.

In Bern, a spokesman for the Swiss federal prosecutor's office said authorities Tuesday seized an Iraqi-bound shipment of machine components and said they are checking whether there is any link with the "super cannon" affair.

Spokesman Roland Hauenstein said the seizure was ordered as a precautionary measure following a tip-off from Britain.

He said authorities were investigating a possible link with other shipments, specifically with the one seized in West Germany. He declined to name the Swiss company that had sent the components.

Iraq starts civil defence drills against possible Israeli attack

BAGHDAD (AP) — Officials said Wednesday that Iraq has started defence drills in its major cities to prepare citizens in case of a nuclear or chemical attack by Israel.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the drills were "useful for the authorities and the population to learn how to deal with such cases." But he would not discuss details of the preparations.

Residents in various cities said part of the drill included moving to huge concrete shelters where they stay for hours until a siren blows, signalling they are clear to leave.

They were also given gas masks to wear.

Others said they were moved outside towns in fast buses i n an exercise aimed at moving them from a site hit by a nuclear or chemical weapons.

President Saddam Hussein said in April that if Iraq was the target of a nuclear attack by Israel he would unleash his country's chemical weapons arsenal.

Israel raided an Iraqi nuclear facility in June 1981, accusing Iraq of developing nuclear weapons. Iraq said its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes, and has voiced concern that Israel will again attack to try to thwart Iraq's developing weapons programme.

During the 1980-88 war with Iran, Iraq built huge concrete shelters designed to withstand nuclear and chemical attacks.

Israel distributes gas masks

Meanwhile, Israel's army, citing enhanced Arab chemical warfare capabilities, has stepped up plans to distribute gas masks nationwide and has prepared television ads on how to use them.

When the army first gave out masks on a trial basis in 1949, the results showed the public did not take the threat seriously.

Masks were used for painting cars or worn to masquerade parties. Needles in the medical kits were used for dart games.

"In order to get public cooperation, there has to be a perceived threat," said an Israeli major who briefed a reporter on the programme. Under standing regulations he could not be named.

Today, Israelis appear to accept the possibility of a poison gas attack as part of a new Middle East reality.

Army commanders say Syria, Iraq, Egypt and possibly Libya have chemical weapons, and they say Iraq is developing a biological potential as well as long-range missiles to deliver such weapons.

The threat was brought home last month when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein vowed "to burn half of Israel with poison gas" if Israel attacked Iraq.

Maj.-Gen. Ehud Barak, the deputy chief of staff, subsequently announced on government television an experimental distribution programme will be expanded so virtually every home will have a gas mask.

The programme is expected to begin on a gradual basis later this year. In the meantime, the army is producing a series of public service announcements on how to obtain and use the gas masks.

A videotape of one such commercial was obtained by the Associated Press. A family is shown watching television when the husband hears his army call-up code broadcast.

His wife kisses him goodbye at the door and then collects the children's identity cards. She heads to a storage depot to get the equipment and meets a neighbour along the way.

"Do you think there will be enough masks?" the neighbour asks.

"Yes, there'll be enough for everyone," answers the mother.

A narrator said anyone showing an identity card will receive a gas mask. Army officials concede this does not apply to the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians in occupied lands, where a 29-month-old revolt against Israeli rule is under way, are excluded because the army says they will not be targeted by Arab states and are unlikely to cooperate with Israeli Civil Defence authorities.

The major said masks could be used by Palestinian activists as protection against riot control tear gas used in confrontations between soldiers and Palestinians.

The spokesman stressed that the 800,000 Arabs with Israeli citizenship as well as foreign residents and tourists would have the same access to anti-gas equipment as the country's 3.5 million Jews.

Israelis are already getting adjusted to life with gas masks.

Drills have been held for the half-million pupils in the nation's 2,200 schools and gas masks have been distributed in 61 of the schools. In the army, officers say that almost every major exercise now involves anti-gas warfare.

Arab states postpone U.N. vote on Israeli settlements

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Arab U.N. representatives postponed Tuesday, probably until after the May 28-29 Arab summit meeting, a decision on when to press for a Security Council vote on a resolution deploring Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"Before taking any further action in the council we thought that we have to be enlightened with whatever will emerge from the summit," Ambassador Karim Al Shakar of Bahrain, current chairman of the Arab group, said.

But, speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting of the group, he also said that if Arab governments decided it would be best to press for a vote sooner, the ambassadors would do so.

One source who took part in the meeting but declined to be identified said: "We postponed a final decision... at the same time it was obvious that the inclination of the Arab group was toward the postponement of the vote until after the summit."

The Security Council has been meeting sporadically since March 15 to debate charges that Soviet Jews now emigrating to Israel in large numbers were being settled in territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war — the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Israel claims the immigrants are free to settle wherever they wish and that only a tiny proportion are going to the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab summit in Baghdad, preceded by a foreign ministers' meeting, will focus on the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and fears they might displace Palestinians.

Arab diplomats, seeking a unanimous resolution, say they are confident that 14 of the Security Council's 15 members will vote for a Non-Aligned draft which "deplores the policies and practices of Israel to settle civilians" in the occupied territories and calls on all states not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used in that connection.

The United States, while also opposing Israeli settlements, balks at some of the language in the resolution, which describes them as illegal.

The Arab group last week rejected several porposed American amendments but it remained unclear whether the United States would abstain or use its veto if the draft remained unchanged.

Finland to be transit point for Soviet Jews

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Israeli and Finnish authorities are completing a plan to transit thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel through a small airport on the Finnish-Soviet border, officials said Wednesday.

The operation would make Finland the fourth major route for Jews emigration from the Soviet Union, along with Hungary, Romania and Poland, the sources said. They spoke on condition they were not identified.

Under the plans, convoys of Finnish buses will start early in June to shuttle the emigrants from the Soviet Union to Lappeenranta, a Finnish town of 54,000 people, about 20 kilometres from the Soviet border.

Israeli chartered aircraft will fly them directly to Tel Aviv within hours of their arrival in Finland, said the sources, speaking by telephone from Finland.

A report that Lappeenranta would become an air bridge for Soviet Jews also appeared in Helsingin Sanomat Wednesday. Finland's leading daily newspaper quoted unnamed Israeli sources.

Airport officials and the mayor in Lappeenranta said they had no information.

Seppo Navala, assistant chief of the Finnish Security Poice, told Associated Press, "we have known that such plans are afoot" for the transit of Soviet Jews.

"We, too, have been involved in arrangements on our own part," Nevala said. He declined to give further details.

The sources said plans call for the transit of several hundred emigrants every month in the first stage, and possibly thousands monthly later on.

Tens of thousands of Jews in Leningrad, the Baltic states and the western Soviet Union reportedly have registered for exit permits, or expressed a desire to leave.

Israel said about 10,500 Soviet Jews arrived in April, a monthly record since the Soviet Union opened the gates last year to most Jews who want to leave.

The Finns announced in March they had agreed to let Soviet Jews pass through their territory, but the negotiations for mass transit were held in strict secrecy in the face of Arab opposition. Reports from Israel on the subject were quashed by military censorship.

The sources claimed Finland received explicit threats of terrorist reprisals. They did not say by whom or to whom the threats were made.

Lappeenranta airport cannot handle large aircraft requiring long runways but the town was reportedly chosen as the transit point because its proximity to the Soviet border reduces security risks.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a top envoy, Bassam Abu Sharif, to Helsinki last month with a personal message to President Mauno Koivisto to urge the Finns to abandon the project.

Abu Sharif, though he declined to spell out the nature of his "urgent mission" to Finland, told Finnish reporters that the PLO would view the settlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank as "an act of aggression" by Israel.

Finnish President Mauno Koivisto was quoted in interview published in Israel Tuesday as confirming that the PLO and Arab states had sought to change Finland's mind.

Koivisto said Arafat "asked us to allow Jews who leave the Soviet Union to remain in Finland or to continue to other countries, and not just Israel."

Koivisto's comments were the most extensive he has made on the question of helping Soviet Jews. They were given in advance of a state visit to Finland by Israeli President Chaim Herzog next week.

Assad: Arabs ignoring world changes

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Assad said Wednesday that the Arabs as a whole have done nothing to face the future and remain in a state of disarray.

The president also underscored his nation's commitment to Arab unity at a time when Syria is the most prominent holdout against a summit of Arab leaders scheduled for Baghdad at the end of May.

"The Arabs as a whole have not done anything to face the future, and they have not initiated anything new to deal with the new world," the president said.

He was apparently referring to changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that have eased superpower competition while calling the viability of Socialist systems into question.

Assad, addressing the 10th congress of the National Union of Syrian Students, said the Arabs are "in a state of intellectual, psychological and political confusion and disarray."

The Syrian president said Arab states are still not aware of the dimensions of the problem.

"Syria has called, alarmed, warned and addressed others and is still doing so," Assad said. "Perhaps there is a need for more efforts."

Assad made no direct reference to his refusal to attend the Arab League summit. Efforts to end the rift between Syria and Iraq have not succeeded.

The rivalry between the two countries, ruled by different wings of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, started in the 1960s and deepened during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when Syria backed Iran.

Assad said he would attend the summit anywhere except Baghdad.

The PLO, which is also at odds with Syria over its peace moves, called for the summit to discuss the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel over the next few years.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat called for the summit to forge a united Arab stand on the issue before a superpower summit at the end of May.

Iraq added threats to its security and the Arabs in general to the agenda of the summit in the wake of accusations from the West that it was assembling a "supergun." Also a sting operation stopped U.S.-made electronic components that could be used to trigger nuclear weapons from reaching Iraq.

Syrian officials said they did not take the threats against Iraq seriously.

"The slogan of Arab solidarity, long raised and reaffirmed by Syria, will continue to receive our deserved attention," Assad said.

Bhutto in Turkey to seek support over Kashmir

ANKARA (Agencies) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in Turkey Wednesday on the second stop of a tour of eight states to seek support for her country's dispute with India over Kashmir.

Bhutto had talks Tuesday in Iran where she received backing for her stand over a Muslim uprising being suppressed by the Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Turkey she will confer with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut before leaving Thursday.

"The ties of friendship between Pakistan and Turkey are conducive to the development of relations in all fields," Bhutto told reporters at Ankara airport.

A senior Foreign Ministry source said Turkey supported Pakistan, a traditional ally, in its dispute with India.

It also backed Pakistan's plans to present a resolution on Kashmir at next month's Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, the source told Reuters.

He said Ankara had told India "that Turkey does not see Pakistan as instigating unrest over Kashmir."

Pakistan rejects Indian claims that it is fomenting a Muslim secessionist uprising in Kashmir that has killed more than 300 people this year and raised tension between the two countries.

Pakistan says the people of Kashmir should decide if they want union with India or Pakistan or independence.

New Delhi says that Kashmir, over which the two countries have fought twice since 1947, is irrevocably part of India.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has called India's treatment of Kashmir's Muslims as "oppression" and pledged full support to Bhutto.

"We shall certainly go on with our efforts to rescue Muslims in Kashmir from this oppression," Rafsanjani said at a banquet given in Bhutto's honour on Tuesday night.

East Germany asks Syria to extradite suspected Nazi

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany is asking Syria to extradite suspected Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, accused of deporting thousands of Jews to death camps, the East German Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"The GDR (East German) ambassador in Damascus has been given the task of handing over this request from the prosecutor general," a spokesman said.

It was East Germany's first formal request for extradition of a suspected Nazi war criminal and came as it was trying to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.

Ministry sources said it was not clear whether Ambassador Karl-Heinz Lugenheim had handed over the request. Syria has denied all knowledge of Brunner.

De Klerk turns down Israeli invitation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel invited South African President F.W. de Klerk to come to the Jewish state on his way back from Washington next month, but South Africa turned down the offer, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

De Klerk, who became president last September, is currently on a nine-nation European tour and is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush in Washington on June 18.

"We told the South African government that we are willing to invite De Klerk to visit Israel following his visit to the United States," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Barukh Binah.

"The South African expressed their appreciation, but said the timetable would not permit a visit at the time. They said De Klerk would come at a later time," Binah said. He said no date has been scheduled.

Binah said the Israeli government had not discussed lifting the sanctions against South Africa that were adopted in September 1987. The sanctions included a ban on new investments, a ban on imports of oil and Kruegerrand gold coins, and a reduction in sports contacats.

The sanctions were seen as symbolic, and Israeli officials said at the time they would not seriously hurt the annual $240 million trade between the two countries.

Unconfirmed foreign and Israeli reports have said the two countries cooperated closely in producing cruise missiles and fighter aircraft. Israel has also sold fat patrol boats, surface-to-surface missiles and rifles to South Africa, according to these reports.

De Klerk was invited by the European nations after he began pushing for reform of South Africa's apartheid system. He has released black South African opposition leader Nelson Mandela and some other anti-apartheid activists and legalised opposition groups, including the African National Congress (ANC).

He met Mandela this month and reached broad agreement with the ANC to work to end political violence and prepare the way to black entry into government.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran
15:40 ..... Programme review
15:45 ..... Children programme
17:10 ..... Book of Adventure
18:00 ..... News for the Deaf
18:20 ..... Religious programme
19:00 ..... Health programme
19:40 ..... Programme review
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Local series
21:30 ..... Programme review
21:40 ..... Local programme
22:20 ..... Arabic film
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Motlerissim
18:10 ..... Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 ..... La Chance aux chansons
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Varieties
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
19:45 ..... Varieties
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Bill Cosby Show
21:10 ..... Basketball
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Inglorious Bastards"

PRAYER TIMES

04:04 ..... Fajr
05:33 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
12.32 ..... Dhuhr
16:13 ..... 'Asr
19:31 ..... Maghreb
21:00 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with clouds appearing at low altitude. Winds will north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman	12 / 24
Aqaba	18 / 33
Descrts	12 / 28
Jordan Valley	15 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25.5, Aqaba 33.8. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Amran	653999
Dr. Isam Abu Rizq	681967
Dr. Anwar Al Haj	771020
Dr. Walid Al Smadi	683266
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Kamal Najjar	(—)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy	(985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Maysoun Hanna	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	66416/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08153200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 ..... Dhahran (RJ)
10:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
10:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
11:15 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:30 ..... London (RJ)
17:30 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)
18:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
18:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:15 ..... Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:55 ..... Baghdad (IA)
10:20 ..... Sanaa (LH)
11:20 ..... Kuwait (KU)
13:25 ..... Riyadh (SV)
14:50 ..... Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
16:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
16:55 ..... Bahrain (TK)
18:50 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
19:15 ..... Frankfurt (LH)
20:10 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
22:05 ..... Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal (1)

08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 ..... Rome (RJ)
13:00 ..... London (RJ)
13:15 ..... Tunis, Paris (RJ)
13:30 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
13:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)
14:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
20:40 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)
22:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)
22:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal (2)

10:00 ..... Damascus (AF)
11:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)
11:10 ..... Frankfurt (LH)
12:25 ..... Kuwait (KU)
14:40 ..... Riyadh (SV)
16:00 ..... Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
17:30 ..... Damascus, Dubai (EK)
17:50 ..... Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
22:55 ..... Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upperlower price in fils per kg.

Almonds	500 / 400
Apple	800 / 650
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammar)	450 / 350
Beans	400 / 350
Broad beans	270 / 220
Cabbage	90 / 60
Carrot	120 / 80
Cauliflower	300 / 250
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	280 / 240
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	200 / 160
Garlic	450 / 400
Lemon	320 / 280
Lettuce (per one)	150 / 100
Mallow	320 / 280
Marrow (large)	180 / 120
Marrow (small)	320 / 280
Onion (dry)	130 / 100
Onion (green)	200 / 150
Orange	340 / 300
Orange (Shamouti)	450 / 400
Pepper (hot)	190 / 140
Pepper (sweet)	180 / 140
Potato	320 / 280
Raddish	150 / 100
Sage	400 / 300
Spinach	220 / 160
Tomatoes	210 / 180
Watermelon	270 / 220

هكذا من الأصل

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives U.S. ophthalmologists

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a delegation representing U.S. ophthalmologists currently on a visit to Jordan. The delegation, paying a visit for the fifth year in a row, provides medical consultations to eye patients and performs operations. The meeting was attended by Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, chief chamberlain and president of the Eye Bank Association.

King congratulates Norway

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to King Olaf V of Norway on his country's independence day. In his cable, the King voiced the Kingdom's wishes to the Norwegian monarch for continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Norwegian people.

Prince Hassan meets U.S. academics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday met with a group of students and teachers from departments of history and archaeology in American universities and exchanged views with them about Middle East history. The Prince spoke about the parliamentary process in Jordan, the importance of the Mediterranean region which has a central location among continents and answered questions about matters related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Soviet Jewish immigration in Palestine.

Folk show to benefit handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — A variety show by multinational folk troupes will be held at the Indonesian ambassadors' residence in Amman next Tuesday and will be attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath. Proceeds of the show will benefit the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

National charter commission meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Commission on the national charter held its fifth meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Ahmad Obeidat. During the meeting several commission members discussed the broad lines of the charter and their view in this regard. The commission will hold its next meeting Saturday.

Arab lawyers meet in Algiers

AMMAN (Petra) — The permanent bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union will open a four-day meeting in Algiers Thursday to discuss the union's plans. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Walid Abdul Hadi, president of the Jordanian Bar Association and Abdul Raouf Al Tal, an association member. A bar association official said the delegates would discuss developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet Jewish immigration in Palestine, among other subjects.

Sports medicine conference opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Jordanian sports medicine conference was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Wednesday with the participation of delegates from 10 Arab and foreign countries. Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh addressed the opening session and later opened a medical exhibition, displaying equipment used in orthopaedic surgery. During the three-day meeting several lectures will be delivered.

JNRCS organises camps

SALT (Petra) — A several day camp for female students from government schools in the Balqa governorate opened at the Princess Rahmeh Social Development Centre at Allan near here Wednesday. The camp, attended by 120 students, was organised by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and the Department of Education in Salt. Participants will hear lectures and take part in seminars on first aid, protecting the environment and emergency services normally conducted by Red Crescent Society teams.

New housing units for Irbid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation will start building 392 housing units at Zibdet Farkouh district in Irbid as of the coming year, corporation Director-General Yousef Hiyasat announced Wednesday. Hiyasat said the first phase of a project in the same district was the building of 300 housing units which had already been distributed to beneficiaries.

Tennis tournament to take place Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Dr. Daoud Hannania the final games of the Spring Tennis Tournament organised by the Y.W.C.A of Amman will take place on Friday 18th according to the following schedule. Mixed doubles — Abdallah Al Khalil and Lein Cummings against Iyad Shihadeh and Suha Kawar at 9:30 a.m. Ladies doubles — Lein Cummings and Jo Ann Donnavan against Rima Jallad and Shireen Asfour at 3:00 p.m. Mens' doubles — Abdallah Al Khalil and Samir Rifai against Iyad Shihadeh and Ra'afat Al Kaisey at 4:30 p.m. Distribution of medals and cups follow immediately after the last event.

Firemen brace for summer fires

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has set up teams specialising in putting out fires in forest areas. The ministry's move comes ahead of the dry summer season during which fires normally happen in Jordanian forests and pastures.

Jordan takes part in exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture will take part in the Moroccan draftsmen exhibition which will be held in Casablanca at the end of this month under the patronage of His Majesty King Hassan II.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONFERENCES

☆ Athletics medicine conference at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 p.m.

HORSE SHOW

☆ Horse show at Hummar (Friday).

ANNOUNCEMENT

With deep sorrow the Spanish Embassy wishes to communicate the demise of the Defence Attache, Col. Wenceslao de Moya.
A condolences book will be opened at the Chancery of the Embassy on Thursday the 17th. and Saturday the 19th. of May 1990, between 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Islamists win all nine seats in college polls

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamists won nine seats from among 35 candidates from all political trends in student elections, Tuesday at the Arab Community College. Reaction to the results ended with mixed yet passive feelings throughout the college.

Only 56.5 per cent of the students voted (1,798 out of 3,168). Such a low turn out was attributed to the bad timing, according to many students who would have wanted to vote. "The elections coincided with exams and many students were not at the college or were in the middle of taking the exams."

According to Nidal Jihad, an Islamist candidate who won the most votes, "we were confident that we would get the majority of the votes because we are concerned with the wellfare of the students." Many Islamists believe they would still have dominated the seats if there was a higher turnout of votes. "The students want to stick to tradition, values and roots."

"They (Islamists) will give us what we want, they are for our benefit," said a female student who did not vote but who was happy with the results.

The Islamists two-year programme aims at focusing the students needs in the college and to create a better environment for students to excel in, Jihad affirmed. "Our concerns are to solve money and family problems the students may have to enhance the standard of education and to see that all colleges throughout Jordan would follow our plans."

The students are not their only target but the whole college system is to be pushed for change. Although Jihad does not wish for the college to be "separated into two," the females on one side and the males on the other, he did say that "we want to separate the males and the females in classes, sports, field trips and school parties."

Although there are mixed feelings about the domination of the Islamists and talk of separation between male and female students, there seems to be a somewhat passive attitude towards the results.

According to fifteen students interviewed by the Jordan Times, six of them had not voted but were satisfied with the results. Only two of these six students regret not to have voted and expressed alarm over the idea of segregation. "We would have wanted a mixture of these political groups."

The majority of the remaining nine students were happy about the results. "The Islamists are good people, they listen and give us what we ask for."

According to Rana Shanti, who also won one of the nine seats, "it is a must to have segregation of males and females because we are Muslims and we should do what is good for everyone. The students are asking for this sort of changes."

If the Islamists are pushing for segregation other students with different political tendencies want to concentrate on more crucial issues. For the democratic group, the idea of "good" comes in a different perspective.

Jihad Ihdain, one of the democratic candidates said, "we wanted to concentrate on the high prices of the private colleges throughout Jordan, and aim to create a council of students that would be an umbrella under which students in Jordan can demand their rights and be heard."

Doctors to meet May 23rd

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — At least 2,000 Arab and foreign physicians and specialists will gather in Amman on May 23 for a three-day medical conference organised jointly by the Arab Doctors Federation (ADF) and the Jordan Medical Association (JMA).

The conference, which will be under the slogan of "Arab doctors in the service of the Palestinian people's intifada," is expected to tackle 124 research papers and prominent specialists will deliver 40 lectures in five different seminars to be organised during the conference which will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, according to Dr. Zuhair Abu Faris, the conference's official spokesman.

Dr. Abu Fairs told the Jordan Times the seminars would deal with Arab pharmaceutical industries, health insurance, Arabisation of teaching of medicine in Arab universities, general health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the geographical distribution of doctors throughout the Arab World.

"A total of 800 Arab and foreign doctors including 200 from Algeria alone as well as 1,200 from Jordan are expected to take part in the conference along with specially invited delegates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), in addition to several health ministers in Arab countries," Abu Faris said.

"The research papers to be reviewed by the conference tackle a range of topics from diabetes, heart diseases and the killer disease AIDS, to emergency cases and gynaecology and obstetrics," Abu Faris said.

Abu Faris pointed out that a famous Soviet cardiologist, Yuri Atkov, who had served as member of a group of cosmonauts during a Soviet space flight will deliver a lecture in English outlining the effect of weightlessness on the heart and blood circulation.

"Atkov maintains strong ties with Jordanian cardiologists like Daoud Hanania and Yousef Qousus, both of whom had been invited to Moscow," according to Abu Faris.

He said that ADF, which holds annual meetings each time in a different Arab capital, is governed by a higher council which groups two representatives from each Arab state.

"Dr. Hassan Khreiss, who is, the federation's secretary-general will attend the meetings and will announce the honouring of two Arab doctors for their distinguished work in medical science and in the field of federation activities," Abu Faris said.

"During the conference a medical exhibition will be held displaying appliances and pharmaceutical products by Jordanian, Arab and foreign firms," Abu Fairs added.

In addition to the seminars, the conference and the exhibition, the JMA has arranged for the delegates to tour archaeological sites and places of interest in Jordan.

On the sidelines of the conference, he said, there would be an announcement by a special committee of this year's winner of the Algerian president's award. He said the cash award ($10,000) last year went to an Egyptian, noted for his scientific research.

"To pave the ground for the conference, the federation's higher council will hold a three-day meeting here to be attended by the federation's secretary-general," Abu Faris said.

He said that other aspects of the coming conference, whose official opening will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre, would be presented at a press conference Thursday May 16, with JMA President Mamdouh Al Abbadi, the chairman of the conference's preparatory committee Fuad Kilani and Dr. Fairs giving further details about this important meeting.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

☆ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
☆ Plastic art exhibition by Abir Abu Judeh, Sanaa Al Bourini and Hadil Bassam at Yarmouk University.
☆ Exhibition of original aerial photos by Jane Tailor at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).
☆ Book exhibition at Mu'ta University.
☆ Art exhibition by Ilham Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
☆ Art exhibition by students of Nazareth Sisters School at the French Cultural Centre.
☆ Art exhibition by Husni Abu Ekraym at the Alia Art Gallery.
☆ Exhibition of paintings depicting national heritage, nature and the Arab woman by Laila Al Shawwa at Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

FILM

☆ Film "Death of Salesman" at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.

(MAP) Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

The chairman and members of MAP's board of trustees wish to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation to

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

for patronising MAP's activities and participating in MAP's march last Friday and their inauguration of the charitable Souk Baladi.

MAP also wishes to express thanks to all brothers and sisters among Jordanian citizens for their efforts to make MAP's activities successful in extending assistance to the injured people among the Palestinians in their uprising.

MAP would also like to express thanks to all those who contributed to the march and the charitable Souk Baladi including diplomatic missions, companies, schools, universities and various organisations either directly or through organising the march or providing financial assistance.

MAP also thanks the directors of the Civil Defence and Public Security Departments and the Information Services including Radio Jordan and Jordan Television and the Press for their contributions by focusing the Jordanian public's attention on MAP's activities and for covering the charitable march.

MAP's President Abdul Majeed Shoman

SILENT AUCTION
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American Community School

Saturday May 19, 1990

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Refreshments !! Silent Bids !!
LIVE AUCTION AT 9:00 P.M.

Come & bid on items offered by
The American Community School families
& the Amman business community

Ticket Cost 2 J.D.

Police arrest suspect in murder case

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police in Amman have reportedly arrested 21-year-old Khaled Mahmoud Abdul Kader two weeks after he assassinated Mohammad Saleh Jarrar during a robbery at Marj Al Hamam district west of Amman.

A report in Al Dustour daily said the murdered man had just opened the door of his house in order to investigate an unusual movement around when the killer stabbed him with a switchblade, causing his immediate death.

The arrested man, said the paper, had also admitted to committing several robberies earlier in the Amman area.

In another report Wednesday the paper said that civil defence men Tuesday pulled out the body of nine-year old Mohammad Hassan Ali who had drowned in the King Abdullah canal (east Ghor canal) near Al Mashare' town in the Jordan Valley region. Witnesses said the boy was trying to have a drink from the canal water where he fell and drowned.

AACO members meet to discuss future plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO's) general assembly will hold its 23rd meeting in Amman Monday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, according to an announcement here Wednesday.

The announcement said that topics ranging from a general organisation report, amendment of the organisation's internal statutes and a financial report on the past year activities will be reviewed at the two-day meeting which would be attended by delegates from 18 Arab countries.

The delegates, the announcement said, are also expected to work out a general plan for the organisation's coming stage, taking into account the effect of a united Europe in 1992 on AACO's operations as well as the organisation's ties with the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

It said that Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, would organise a special ceremony for the delegates in observance of the AACO's silver jubilee.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Telephones: **667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **661242**

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Words that have to be taken seriously

IRAQI Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan's interview with the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahali is very significant. In it, he not only discloses that Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has agreed in principle to a summit meeting with President Saddam Hussein, which is a piece of *hard news given the recent dramatic history of relations* between the two countries. Ramadan also reveals that the Iraqi government had had information of an impending attack against Iraq that was going to be much bigger than Israel's destruction of the Tammuz nuclear reactor near Baghdad in 1981.

For anyone who is not privy to Iraq's state secrets — and we assume that there are many who are not — Ramadan's revelations have to be taken extremely seriously and his words studied very carefully. Why? For two basic reasons, the first of which is the Western-accepted philosophy which says that the Iraqis, unlike standard politicians, always mean what they say. Secondly, and more importantly perhaps, *is the strategic theory that Iraq has now become* the natural target for the Israelis to hit. The theory — or consideration, it might be called — is predicated on the assumption that for Israel to continue to be seen as a viable strategic ally of the West, especially the U.S., it has to neutralise Iraq's military and political prowess following Baghdad's major achievements and accomplishments in the Gulf war. This Israel might think it could do by an operation which has indeed to be bigger than its 1981 air raid against the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

This strategic consideration is all the more plausible, given the expected heavy increase in demand by the U.S., Europe and Japan on Middle East oil in the nineties and beyond; and given the fragmented state of affairs in the Arab World, and the rising tension between Iraq and the West over the issues of chemical weapons and transfer of technology which have been blown out of all proportions recently.

It is in this kind of atmosphere that Israel can be expected to launch an act of aggression against Iraq and do it with impunity. And it is in such a climate that his words have to be taken so seriously he, whether in Iraq or elsewhere, who says that Iraq has been singled out for attack by the Israelis.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I daily Wednesday described the popular march to the bridge across the River Jordan Monday as a plebiscite in which the Jordanian and Palestinian people reaffirmed their national unity and cohesion in the face of the common Israeli enemy. The paper said that the thousands of people who carried posters and shouted slogans in the march, presented evidence of national unity and Jordanian-Palestinian determination to thwart all conspiracies directed against Jordan and Palestine. The march on Monday was a demonstration of will, steadfastness and resolve to confront the intrigues designed to disintegrate the national unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people, the paper added. Israel's conspiracies and expansionist plans designed to cause splits among factions, religious denominations and political groupings can only end with failure: and the message was clear in the show of unity and cohesion among the Jordanian and Palestinian people last Monday, the paper noted. It said that 42 years of occupation could not erase a single ray of hope in the hearts of the Arab people of regaining control of their land again.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily strongly criticises the behaviour of certain Europeans pointing in particular to the participation of the Italian and French presidents in recent pro-Jewish demonstrations. **Tareq Masarweh** says the demonstrations were staged following the tampering with a Jewish grave, an act which proved to be the work of an Israeli who was eventually arrested in Israel. What about the thousands of Arab homes in Palestine that have been demolished by Israel, and the holy places desecrated by Israeli settlers.? asks Masarweh. He expresses the view that atrocities committed against the Arabs are not prompting pro-Arab demonstrations in France and Italy, since the Europeans have double standards in dealing with various nations, depending on the international political atmosphere. These pro-Jewish demonstrations, Masarweh adds, can only extend indirect support for the Zionist-imperialist expansionist designs in the Arab regions, and cannot be separated from the ongoing *onslaught on Iraq. The demonstrations, he adds, serve* as an open European support for the continuing Jewish immigration into Palestine.

Al Dustour daily sounded an optimistic note about the future of the Gulf in the wake of messages exchanged between Baghdad and Tehran. This is the first time since the outbreak of the Gulf conflict that the two countries hold direct contacts designed to break the deadlock in the ongoing efforts to bring about a lasting peace to the Gulf region, said the paper. Iraq has displayed good intentions and offered new bids to achieve the long-aspired goal of stability and peace; and should Tehran respond favourably to Baghdad's overture, the way will be paved for a turnpoint in bilateral relations, and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which provides a formula for permanent peace, the paper noted. Let us hope, said the paper, that the *Iranian leaders will find sufficient courage and farsightedness in* handling the coming delicate situation, and embark on steps leading to peace.

DFLP differences reflect the debate within the PLO

By Paul Lalor

INTERNAL differences which have been threatening to split the left-wing Palestinian movement, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), over the last two years emerged into the open for the first time at a recent meeting in Algeria of its central committee, which agreed to put the contending arguments to the people and to hold a conclusive general congress before the end of this year. These differences and their outcome are important not only because the DFLP is the third largest group in the PLO after Fateh and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash, but also because they reflect a wider debate within the Palestinian National movement.

Shortly after the outbreak of the intifada, conflicting camps appeared inside the DFLP, with the overwhelming majority following Secretary General Naif Hawatmeh in Damascus, and others supporting his deputy, Yasser Abd Rabo, based in Tunis. Over the next few months, and especially after Jordan cut links with West Bank, there was intensive, often bitter debate about the significance of the intifada and the future course of the DFLP and PLO.

The per-PNC debate inside the DFLP

From the outset, Abd Rabo, who has represented the DFLP on the executive committee of the PLO since 1974, believed that the intifada had presented Palestinians with a historic opportunity at a time when the superpowers were coming together and regional conflicts were being solved all over the world. The Palestinian struggle had reached the "national liberation stage" and there could no longer be any confusion about the nature of the conflict: it was not between Arabs and Israelis, or between the military forces of the PLO and Israel with the inhabitants of the occupied territories "somehow remaining neutral", but between the two peoples, Palestinian and Israeli.

Abd Rabo, supported by Mamduh Nawfil, Salah Rifa'at, Jamal Hilal and elements of the leadership from within the occupied territories, argued that the time was right "to put all our cards on the table". The PLO had "to apear before the world as serious *about peace, and show that the* Israelis were the real obstacle to progress". Indeed, it was crucial to do this as soon as possible before the intifada developed into "the kind of problem that the world is used to and ignores".

The Abd Rabo group urged the DFLP to adopt a "realistic programme" and press the Palestinian National Council to seize the opportunity presented by the intifada. This could only mean supporting the idea of a state in the West Bank and Gaza, accepting Resolutions 242 and 338 as a *necessary step to secure an international conference,* and announcing the preparedness of the Palestinian people to recognise and live in peace with Israel.

Hawatmeh, and the majority of the DFLP leadership, warned that the intifada was not "sacred" *and that it was too early "to put* all our eggs in one basket". He pointed out that if the Palestinians played all their cards now, they would have none to trade at the negotiating table. Hawatmeh also feared that permature Palestinian concessions would *lead only to American and Israeli* demands for more. In any case, he belived that "as long as real power is held by Israel there could be no meaningful change on the ground".

According to Hawatmeh and the mainstream within the DFLP, it would be better to give away very little, gather Arab support and use the intifada to embarrass Israel and US into making concessions. They rejected any reference to 242 and 338, outside the context of all other United Nations resolutions, and argued that 181 should be mentioned only in so far as it legitimised the Palestinian state.

As differences deepened, the Abd Rabo camp accused the leadership in Damascus of being *tied to Syria which "sought to* subjugate the Palestinian national movement to its authority". Hawatmeh and the others were anachronistic "pan-Arab nationalists incapable of responding to regional and international changes or of meeting the demands of the intifada. There were calls for "new, young blood" and observers recalled in this context that Hawatmeh is a Jordanian, and that another "old timer", Abu Leila, is Iraqi. Hawatmeh and the majority countered by referring to followers of the minority view, most of whom were based in Tunis, as naive "Palestinian chauvinists" who were under the influence of Arafat.

Despite the majority's attempts to impose its line, the DFLP continued to speak with two voices. These differences persisted until the Algiers meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in April, 1987, and they were reflected in the DFLP's divided approach. On the one hand, Abd Rabo and his group were encouraging Arafat and *Fateh to go all the way,* while Hawatmeh and the mainstream were pushing Habash and the PFLP to take an extreme line in opposition. There were reports that Hawatmeh and Abd Rabo were not no speaking terms and Front sources in Tunis spoke at *the time "of complicated man*oeuvres to avoid splitting the DFLP".

Early in the PNC's discussions a statement was made in the name of the DFLP which reflected the majority position. However, in an extraordinary volte face, Hawatmeh later voted for the Declaration of Independence and the Political Statement accompanying it. Abd Rabo and his supporters suggest that Hawatmeh's unexpected turnaround was due to Habash's decision to accept the democratic will of the PNC and pressure from the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Traditionally, the DFLP has sought to remain within the mainstream, and Hawatmeh did not want to be the lone ousider in a climate of national unity.

However, this does not explain why he voted for resolutions he had previously opposed so strongly, rather than abstaining like Habash and the others. There is evidence to suggest that he did so under the immediate pressure of threats by the minority group to create a split within the DFLP. Against this background it is not surprising that differences within the Front persisted in the wake of the PNC and that it continued to express contradictory positions towards the Palestinian peace offensive.

Post- PNC differences

In the wake of the PNC, the "conservative" majority within the DFLP went on questioning the direction of PLO policy and sought to disassociate itself from it by bringing Abd Rabo into line. The Front's political bureau forbade him to go to the Geneva meeting of the united Nations, or to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Cairo. It also opposed his participation in the Tunis talks with the Americans.

In early 1989 Hawatmeh criticised the US-PLO dialogue, arguing that American policy was aimed at making the talks an end in themselves, rather than a means to bring about an international conference. The organ of *the DFLP, Al-Hurriya, attacked* the PLO's "policy of concessions" and its willingness to work closely with Egypt. Abd Rabo, for his part, followed the directions of the political bureau on Geneva and Cairo, but refused to accept its position on the talks with the Americans. He accused Hawatmeh of reneging on his vote in the PNC, of not fully supporting the intifada and of undermining national unity.

These differences led to meetings of the political bureau in April 1989 and others on the sidelines of sessions of the PLO's Central Council in the same month, with Arafat mediating between the leaders of the two groups. Reflecting the early success of the Palestinian peace initiative, the talks resulted in statements supporting the Abd Rabo line. For example, it was decided to "return to a realistic policy, instead of a policy of extremism".

This was very thin paper over very large cracks and arguments continued not so much on the PNC resolutions themselves, but rather on positions taken here and there in the context of their implementation and on the role of the Arab states, particularly Syria, in the Palestinian peace offensive. Thus, Hawatmeh rejected the Shamir, Mubarak and Baker plans, criticised Abd Rabo for ignoring the DFLP's decision making machinery, and accused him of giveng far to much away to America and Israel. He called for a meeting of the Arab states, including Syria, to coordinate and increase pressure towards an international conference.

Abd Rabo, however, continued to lead the PLO delegation in the Tunis talks with the Americans and to follow PLO policy by "not saying no" to Israeli, Egyptian and American peace plans. He called for "realism" and for cooperation with those Arab states which recognised the independence of PLO decision making.

The DFLP political bureau met in Tunis and Damascus in November 1989 and January 1990, but failed to reach agreement. Positions had hardened in the wake of Abd Rabo's unauthorised attendance at the PLO's executive committee meeting in Cairo (the first in 15 years), and because of differences over the proposed talks to be held in Cairo *between Palestinians and Israelis.* Thus, it was decided to call a meeting of the DFLP's central committee to discuss these issues, and this was held in Algeria from 15 February to 4 March.

Algiers and after

Initial reports suggest the Abd Rabo group carried the day in Algeria. In course of the meetings which were characterised by angry exchanges, the leadership in Damascus was heavily criticised for "hesitation on the Palestinian peace enterprise" and for its "bureaucratic mentality". The concluding political statement emphasised that the central committee adhered to the decisions of the 19th PNC and that it aimed "to develop .. in the direction of .. a national realistic plan, far from all kinds of rightist or leftist extremism".

However, it is too early to say that this was a conclusive victory for Abd Rabo and his comrades. It is true that they were backed by 31 (half) of the delegates who attended, an enormous gain over less than two years, and most significantly, they had the leadership inside the occupied territories on their side. Clearly too, the Damascus leadership has been damaged by the Syria-Egypt rapprochement in December 1989. Yet Hawatmeh and the others would be wrong to underestimate the prestige and support enjoyed by the DFLP cadres which they did so much to set up. In this context it should be pointed out that this was the first central committee meeting to be held outside Damascus in ten years, and that a few days later, a leaflet was circulating in the occupied territories strongly supporting the Hawatmeh line.

There are hopes that the DFLP's general congress, to be held before the end of this year, will resolve these differences democratically at a time when national unity is at a premium. In this case, if Abd Rabo wins, then the DFLP will fully back the PLO peace offensive. If he loses, then, the DFLP will join Habash and the DFLP in the "loyal opposition", increasing pressure on Arafat to take a harder line. As has been the case inside the DFLP and the PLO during the last two years, the *intifada* and the course of the Palestinian peace intiative in the coming months will be the crucial factors in this process — Middle East International, London.

Is Yugoslavia disintegrating?

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Once again, Yugoslavia is carving a unique path. Communist yet *non-aligned, it now has the dis*tinction of maintaining two political systems — multi-party democarcy and single-party rule — in one country.

The tension between the two systems, coupled with a surge in nationalism, is threatening to pull apart the federation of six republics.

Federal authority virtually collapsed after free elections in the two most developed republics, Slovenia and Croatia, during April and May.

In both cases, Communists suffered resounding defeats from centre-right parties that say their republics don't need the rest of the country and should secede.

Yugoslavia's largest republic, Serbia, still has single-party Communism. Its leaders repeatedly *have accused Slovenia and* Croatia of undermining Socialism and the federal system.

The clash between orthodox Communists and free market enthusiasts is fanning fierce ethnic rivalries that have been an undercurrent in Yugoslavia's politics ever since the country was created out of the fallen Habsburg and Ottoman empires in 1918.

The rivalry is now sharpest *between the traditionally Catho*lic Croats and Eastern Orthodox Serbs. The latter have bitter memories of the hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Gypsies and Jews killed in the World War II death camps of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia.

The landslide election victory of Franjo Tudjman's nationalist Croatian Democratic Union is likely to exacerbate these strains. The 450,000-strong Serb minority in Croatia already has held several anti-Tudjman rallies.

Serbia's Communist president, Slobodan Milosevic, declared recently in an emotional speech that Serbia will protect Serbs wherever they live in Yugoslavia.

Tudjman told the Associated Press after his victory that Yugoslavia can continue to exist only (if *it becomes a loose confederation* of fully sovereign states).

Under his formula, Yugoslavia's republics would become independet states and establish relations only if common interests were involved.

Tudjman's views are shared by freely elected Slovenian President Milan Kucan, who said recently that Yugoslavia should either become a confederation or "peacefully split apart."

Serbia, however, advocates a strong, centralised and firmly Socialist federation. Several independent parties have emerged in the republic, but have not yet been legalised.

Kucan and Tudjman say they are unwilling to negotiate Yugoslavia's future with Serbian Communist leaders until the republic holds free elections and chooses legitimate leaders.

Even if free elections are held, however, Milosevic's appeal to Serbian nationalism could well hand the Communists a victory.

A growing number of Yugoslavs see reformist Premier Ante Markovic, a Croat, as the only moderate alternative to Tudjman's and Milosevic's irreconcilable extremes.

Markovic enjoys huge poplarity for his sucess in bringing down triple-digit inflation by introducing market methods and trying Yugoslavia's currency, the dinar, to the West German mark.

Prices that were rising 65 per cent per month a year ago actually fell slightly in April.

Echoing the sentiments of many Yugoslavs, Markovic says the economy is more important than any long-winded discussions, characteristic of Balkan politics, about what form Yugoslavia should take.

"It does not matter if Yugoslavia will be a confederation or a federation," he said in a recent television interview. "What matters is how well the country performs economically and how well its people live."

But, as federal premier, Markovic has no constitutional power to change Yugoslavia's political structures — meaning the republics must act together or allow the current power vacuum to grow.

The Communist Party, which once unified Yugoslavia's ruling elite, seems incapable of restoring the authority it has lost over a decade of bickering and economic failures.

Its congress broke up in January after Slovenian delegates, angered by Milosevic and other orthodox Communists, stormed out.

This week, the party advertised in the Belgrade daily Politika for anyone interested in renting office space in its national headquarters.

One body that could intervene is the army. Top officers, neutral until recently, now seem to lean towards Serbia and maintaining the integrity of the country.

With the rest of Eastern Europe casting off authoritarian Communist rule, military intervention would be a deeply unpopular anomally.

In a country adrift, nationalism seems to be the only force gaining ground.

"Communist rule was a bad rule in Yugoslavia. What is undoubtedly an even worse rule, into which we are openly sailing, is rule by nationalists," the Belgrade Vecernje Novosti daily commented recently. "Are Yugoslavia's days numbered?".

For the record

To the editor,

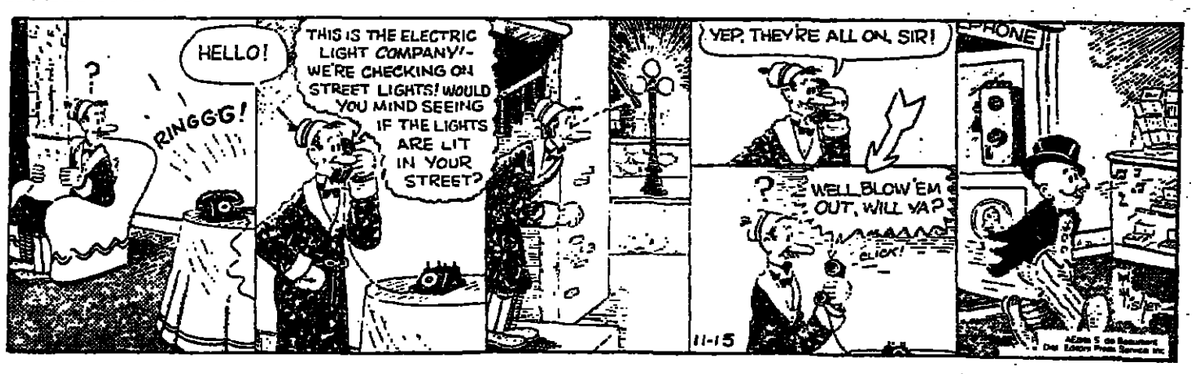
THERE were several inaccuracies which I feel should be corrected in the Jordan Times' May 15, 1990 article headlined "*Rehabilitation Centre Annex Opened.*"

1. The occasion was the opening of the upper two floors of the annex generously donated and constructed by Mr. and Mrs. Othman Bdeir and not "financed through contributions from the private sector in Jordan."
2. The Amman Centre for the Education and the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped offers for 120 physically handicapped children and many outpatients, elementary education, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and occupational therapy, not only "special education classes and vocational training."
3. The centre has offered services of the one kind or another to over 5,000 people over the last six years. It offers boarding for 50 students, general medical care, sports and recreation, social workers' home visits and councelling, and assessments and referrals from our outpatient clinic, not "at least 225 children *have benefitted from these services.*"
4. The newly-opened annex houses a medical engineering workshop for the production of prosthetic devices, sewing production workshop for women, radio-television repair shop and a two-year training course which confers a government certified diploma, and a new bookbinding facility donated by Mr. Ibrahim Sharbain, not "embroidery, shoemaking and the manufacture of artificial limbs."

Majda Raad Zeid
President of Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped
P.O. Box 5102, Amman.

Editor's note: We appreciate very much Her Highness Princess Majda's comments above, and would like to point out that the story that appeared in the Jordan Times on May 15 was a translation of a story originally carried by Petra, The Jordan News Agency.

Mutt'n'Jeff



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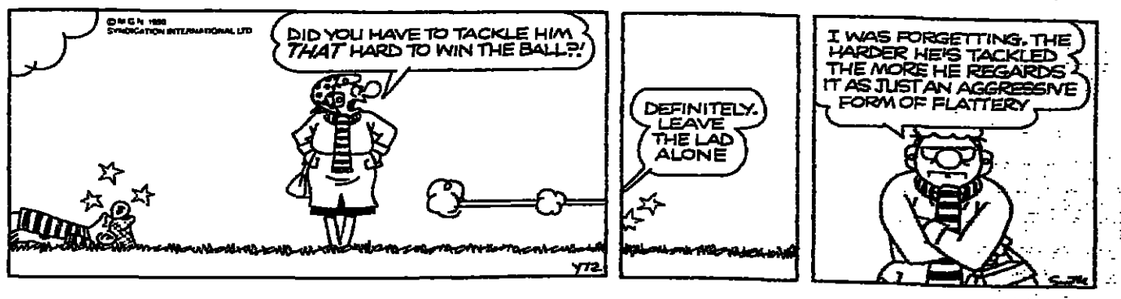
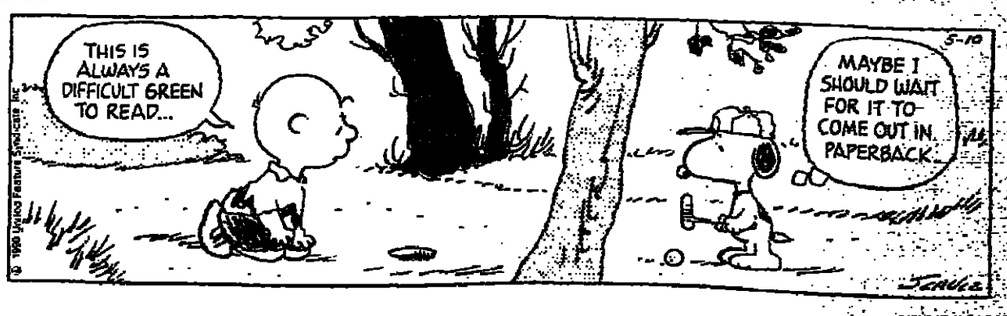


Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 17-18, 1990 *May 17, 1990* A

Samar Ramadan has managed to convert passion into profession

By Hana Darwazah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Artistically inclined even as a child, Samar Ramadan is one of the lucky few who managed to convert their passion into a profession. Ramadan now operates from her own shop doing what she loves most in life, various forms of art.

Ramadan has studied interior design in the American College of London, England, for two years, then she returned and finished her college education in Queen Alia Community College in Amman.

"I have always loved art, even as a child I was participating in school exhibitions. My first artistic endeavour was a ceramics exhibition in the Fine Arts Institute when I was in high school. Since then I have participated in three exhibitions or bazaars at the YWCA, Royal Automobile Club and the Circassian Youth Committee," Ramadan told the Jordan Times WEEKENDER.

According to Ramadan, apart from her college education, she has also taken several individual art courses such as painting on silk, silk flower making, painting on porcelain and ceramics.

Since opening her own interior decorating and art shop in April 1988, Ramadan has designed, overseen and furnished the interior of four houses, two jewellery shops, a hair-stylist's salon and the Royal Eagles Club.

Apart from interior designing, currently Ramadan's favourite activity is painting Islamic designs and inscribing old Arabic calligraphy on Hebron glass.

According to Ramadan: "Arab and Islamic heritage is perhaps among the most beautiful art forms in the world, yet we ignore it and imitate the West."

"However recently, perhaps three or four years ago, there has been a trend of rediscovering Islamic art among our people in Jordan," she said.

Another art form Ramadan particularly enjoys is painting on cloth. The artist has made tablecovers, coasters, traycovers and cushions.

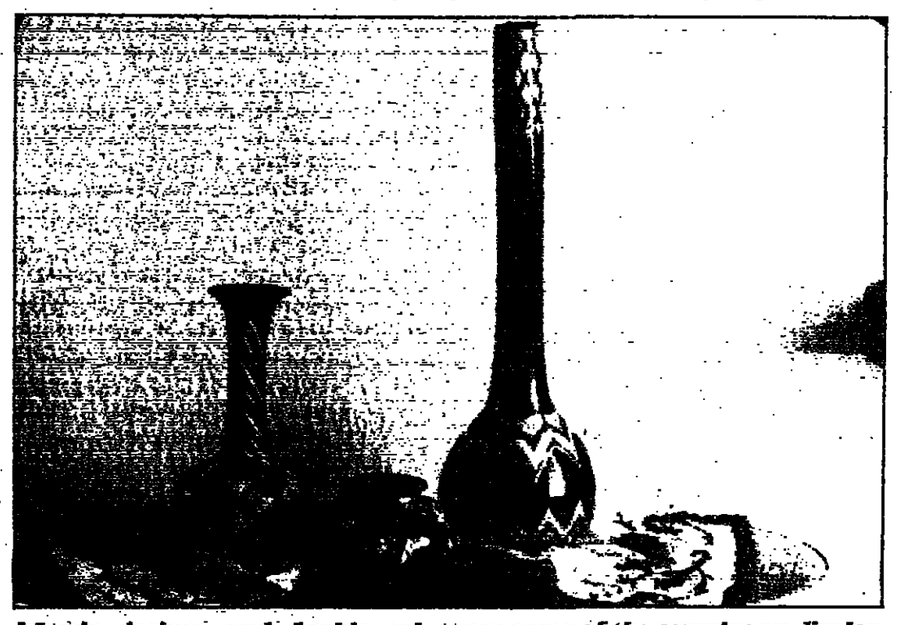
"I use bold primary colours along with gold, silver and bronze. It seems to me that my work is acquiring more and more of an Eastern character, which frankly pleases me for I am an ardent admirer of Eastern art."

About the porcelain plates and vases displayed in her office the artist said: "I start out with good quality white procelain, paint the designs I have in mind, then put them inside a special oven. Afterwards, they are taken out, immersed in water and softened with a special cloth. Like all art work, it is a laborious and painstaking process."

According to Ramadan, the biggest problem she encounters is the expense and the scarcity of material. "I might come across a special kind of paint that I like. After using it I would return to get some more, only to find that it is no longer available. So I would have to search for another type of paint and experiment with it again to get results that please me, or perhaps move onto something else entirely."

Ramadan has samples of all her work displayed in her store on Bayader Wadi Seer. The pieces of display are not for sale because the artist is preparing for an exhibition in the coming few months.

"Here, in Jordan, ther is no scarcity of skilled artists and artisans. The skill, the know-how and the materials are all available. Only more encouragement is needed from the general public," Ramadan said.



Islamic designs and Arabic calligraphy painted on Hebron glass, are some of the samples on display at Samar Ramadan's store.

Samar Ramadan

Cartier Art Exhibition — Where

By Victoire Jean
L'Actualite en France

PARIS — For three months, the Petit Palais in Paris has become the most sparkling museum in the world. The exhibition, inaugurated there by the mayor of Paris, Mr. Jacques Chirac, is devoted to the work of one of the most famous jewellers of our time, and of yesteryear, Cartier.

"Cartier Art" tells the history of a century of fabulous creations made between 1850 and 1960, in 140 pieces of jewellery, 80 various accessories (from a perfume bottle to a lighter), 100 strange or refined clocks and watches, and 300 drawings.

It is also the whole adventure of four generations of Cartier which unfolds in the form of diamonds, pearls, rubies, saphires, gold, silver, onyx, coral and so on, scattered throughout 18 rooms where one can see Mata Hari's adornments, tiaras belonging to the belles of the Raoring Twenties and Jean Cocteau's academician's sword, as well as Marshal Foch's baton, or the cigarette-case given by Winston Churchill to his son.

It is an epic which began in 1847 in Rue Montorgueil, with Louis François Cartier, which continued a stage further in Boulevard des Italiens and arrived in Rue de la Paix today. But it is also an epic which passionately and attentively passes through all styles, from the sumptuousness of the Second Empire to the colourful gaiety of Art Deco in the 30s, up unto the naturalism of the 1950s.

Cartier was certainly an acknowledged and esteemed creator. Princess Mathilde and Empress Eugénie were among his customers last century. But Cartier also had a nose for business and, as time passed, he could be found in London, and then in New York.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the Cartier firm had acquired a world reputation and become the official supplier of the kings of England and Spain and the royal families of Russia and Greece.

But this renown did not put an end to their universal curiosity which made them want to see everything representing the world repertoire in decoration. Themes inspired by mysterious China or Ancient Egypt (the tombs of the pharaohs were discovered) were to give birth to marvellous, unbelievable pieces of jewellery.

There were also meetings with men who, in turn, were to be inspired by this "Cartier Art."

In 1927, Paul Claudel, French ambassador in Washington, made friends with Pierre Cartier, and this friendship resulted in an essay: "The Mystique of Precious Stones."

A diadem made in 1910. One of the items from the Cartier collection displayed at the Petit Palais in Paris.

New Altman film on Van Gogh explores artistic madness

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — "The film is not about a famous artist, but about a failed person and his relationship with his family," says American director Robert Altman whose new movie on Vincent Van Gogh has just opened in Europe.

A century after the Dutch artist committed suicide, Altman's "Vincent and Theo" focuses on the relationship between Vincent and his brother, described by Altman as like Siamese twins.

Theo, an art dealer, financially supported Vincent and lived for only a few months after his death in 1890 at the age of 37. The Netherlands is marking the 100th anniversary of Van Gogh's death with a year-long programme, including exhibitions, operas, films and plays.

Altman's film explores how Van Gogh, whose works now sell for record prices, was driven to suicide by a sense of failure.

"I wanted to show the pain of a striving artist," said Altman on a visit to Amsterdam where the film recently had its world premiere.

"What I am trying to express to the audience is the wonder of an artist that has the drive to do something and never succeeds and years later is the most famous artist in the world," he added.

The film, which opened on May 3 in West Germany, and goes on show in June in Britain and in September in the United States and much of the rest of Europe, is the 65-year-old director's first attempt at a film set in European history.

It was a very interesting time, and I deal with the art world, the hypocrisy of the art world, art critics, with other painters of the time, with money and sales and popularity," he said.

A veteran who has already produced 29 films including such hits as Mash and Nashville, Altman found his biggest difficulty was contending with his crew's preconceptions about Van Gogh.

"Everyone had an opinion, so when I did something they didn't agree with, I could smell it," said Altman.

"I didn't want this film to imitate Van Gogh's look or his painting. There are many scenes where I purposely went against something I knew to be a fact and presented things that were not factually true but which I felt were emotionally true," he said.

For example, Van Gogh's friend, the artist Paul Gaugin, has a limp in the movie. In real life he did not acquire one until an accident after Van Gogh's death but Altman said he felt the limp helped round out the character.

Altman said he purposely did not read the published letters of Vincent to his brother or see the dozens of other films that have already been made on the artist in order to present his own, strictly personal, image of the artist.

What emerges is a character of a raw emotion, reckless, uncouth and obsessive rather than likeable, and a Theo who holds on ambivalently to respectability to support the brother he loves but does not always understand.

"The film shows how emotionally connected they were. They were like Siamese twins, like two sides of the same coin," Altman said.

Altman chose two relatively unknown British actors for the lead parts — Tim Roth as Vincent and Paul Rhys as Theo

"I figured there was already a star in the film and that is Van Gogh and to have a famous name actor would have confused the issue. We had many famous actors who wanted to play Vincent, but I wasn't interested,' Altman said.

The film opens with the sale of Van Gogh's Sunflowers for $39.9 million at a Christies auction in 1987 — at the time the highest price ever paid for a painting

It shifts to a pipe-smoking Van Gogh, with tar-stained teeth, despondent in a decrepit Dutch hut where he is being told by Theo that the drawings he has done in the few months since he decided to become an artist are not particularly good.

A decade and thousands of paintings later, Van Gogh committed suicide, having sold only a single painting in his life.

"The fascination about Van Gogh is in the terrible, cruel irony of a person who never achieved success in his life and then his painting are sold at obscene prices," Altman said.

THEATRE REVIEW

Brontë: A trip to Victorian England

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The city of Amman has been going through its annual celebration of "British Week". On this occasion, the Royal Theatre Company has staged a very British play, Brontë, in cooperation with the British Council which hosted their rehearsals, and the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel which turned this event into a dinner theatre.

Brontë, a play written by Vanessa Batrouni, is a delicacy to be relished. Says Vanessa: "When I read Jane Eyre for the second time, I realised what a powerful and passionate story it was. Wuthering Heights, on the other hand, struck me as very free; in fact, free enough to be a 20th century novel. I was intrigued by the women who lived in such a constricting age and yet were so strong." Both novels were written by the Charlotte and Emily Bronte.

After a lot of research, Vanessa was overwhelmed by the extent of material that she had uncovered. Reducing it into theatrical form was quite a task. "This is my fourth re-write," explains Vanessa, "and seeing it staged makes me think that I could do more to it!" Considering Vanessa's ambitious record, one can see that she excels but forever seeks to do better. Here, she is dealing with a living script that can be developed. Short episodes taken from both the books and personal lives of the Brontës are presented here, simultaneously.

Work on the songs and lyrics of this production started in January 1990, although auditions to choose the participating actors/singers took place in September 1989. Many had participated in earlier productions such as 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'Mother Goose'.

In the play, Vanessa focuses on Charlotte Bronte in particular. "I was drawn to her because I was fascinated by her avant-garde attitude."

The Brontës, it is known, lived in a fantasy world of their own. They had a creative childhood where they would act out games and characters, wars and battles; they made out their own reality. Two sisters, Emily and Anne, refused to get out of their imaginary world. Their brother, Branwell, tried to get into real life, was sent to an academy but could not cope with it. He became an alcoholic and soon died. Charlotte was the only one who wanted to try "real" reality. She went to Belgium to study, was broken-hearted and returned home to write and to finally publish her works and those of her sisters. These were a mixture of their imagination and the real world around them. After her success, Charlotte was to live, though briefly, in the world of men, a tough world where a woman was nothing but "a little thing" as they called her in the play.

The play is a series of flashbacks from their lives, with four curates, characters from Charlotte's books and family who, in 'recitative' form, represent the society of the day, its construction, its restraint, its subjugation to religion. When their aunt hears that they were to go to a school where they would learn to sing, she exclaims "How very unmethodist!"

Although it includes music and songs, the play is not a musical in the real sense of the word, as that would entail dancing. "It is a play with music" explains Vanessa, playwright and director," it is a drama with comic elements and an added dimension, that of music. Music expresses emotions that couldn't otherwise be expressed by words; it enforces feelings and heightens passions." This is seen in the beautiful expressionistic singing of Lexi Haddadin, Kay Mukhar and Gaynor Peridakis (The Brontë sisters) as well as that of David Thompson, Richard Hillebrand, Nick Bowley and Alan Dawson-Hollis (the curates).

Accompanying them are Peter Ashton on the piano, Fouad and Ra'ed Malas on the violins, Susan Kawar and Inshad Fakhoury on the clarinets and, from the Jordanian Army orchestra, Sakher Idris on the flute.

The music was written by Brenda Cooper who studied vocal technique and song interpretation for a performance degree course at the Middlesex Polytechnic with, for a teacher, no other than Vanessa Batrouni.

Vanessa had herself studied Drama at the Central School of Speech and Drama at Swiss Cottage, London, and had done acting courses for three years. She had taken part in the pop group Rocky Horror Show and because of her interest in music, had gone to Vienna to further study singing. As for directing, it has been a life-long occupation for her.

The music, not always typically Victorian (it sometimes skips a good hundred years from 1820 to 1920), clings explicitly to the mood of the moment: it wavers from an atmosphere of sorrow, to dramatic passion, and then bursts into a flurry of excitement. Although the singers exhibited clear diction, the lyrics of the songs and some lines from the poetry of Emily Brontë were printed out and distributed with the programme.

The songs served as tools for characterisation. "Arthur's bulk is bigger than his brain... Mr. Donne! He's full of conceit. 'I can talk of myself for a week'... Sweeting, he's charming but a cheat. 'I'm a flirt who can hurt if you let him." Explicitly descriptive though it might be, the script does not lack humour! We see the Belgian professor whose pronounced French accent, exhorbitant mannerisms and passionate heart contrast drastically with the attitude of Victorian Englishmen, unconcerned, sarcastic about women, conformingly sipping away at their "cup o' tea" in the parlour, newspaper in hand.

Among these colourful characters, the Brontë sisters grow, create their own exotic and most passionate world, and face sour reality as governesses... "I stitch from dawn to dawn and never ever accept this dreary chore as being clever. I ache from what I've sewn yet get no better."

The sisters compile their manuscripts, seek a publisher, receive a positive answer and have to face the reactions of the society of the day.

In "My Dear Papa" Charlotte sings "...He introduced me as Jane Eyre", but soon after the glowing success comes the yearning" I'm faint from London's ways, I meet with idols daily... but at these heights I gasp for air. I long to breathe with those who care." This ends in a soulful statement: "My hosts are very courteous, they toast my book and name so, but home with you (father) and silent rain, means more to me than all this fame." Charlotte marries a curator who loved her for twelve years but was too shy to tell, she lives a brief period of happiness before succumbing to death during childbirth.

The simultaneous death of family members causes great sorrow to those who remain. This is accentuated by light effects, falling snow which enhances the cold and dreary atmosphere, the distant liturgy for a funeral, and Lexi Haddadin's beautiful voice soaring with "She climbed to God but loved the earth, she climbed no coward soul to death, She climbed and truly God was served."

Pleasure and skits, passion and sorrow, the world of dreams and restrictive reality were not the only things depicted in the play.

JTV Channel 2 Weekly Preview

Thursday, May 17

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Mathew's friend gives his girlfriend a gift, a stolen watch which he finds and thus loses her love.

9:10 Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week
The Inglorious Bastards
Starring Bo Svenson, Peter Hooten

Five soldiers about to be court martialled during World War II take off through France, hoping to make the Swiss border.

Friday, May 18

8:30 The Robert Guillaume Show

Edward is so deep in trouble that he enlists the services of a psychiatrist for help.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

Diana takes care of Vincent who recovers ... Diana tries hard not to get involved emotionally ... Vincent goes underground again and she goes searching for him ... and another encounter with the bad guys.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy
Dead Stop

Quincy, the environmentalist, is very active here. Nature preservation is a vital issue.

Saturday, May 19

8:30 Surgical Spirit
The Phone Call

Sheila Sabatini's soon-to-be-ex-husband, Remo, is trying to contact her by telephone at the hospital. She begins to behave unusually, lurking by the telephone in case he should call until Joyce points out he may be calling to try and retrieve his new Mercedes which Sabatini is "looking after." When Remo finally calls, Sabatini makes Haslam speak to him, who then refuses to tell her why Remo wanted to speak to her.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film
Red Sundown
Starring Rory Calhoun

Usual Western tale about the lawless renegade turned lawful deputy and the trouble he encounters before and after the transition. Only bad guys can tame fellow bad ones.

Sunday, May 20

8:30 Who's the Boss
Yellow Submarine

Tony gets a job running a restaurant, Samantha, as a consequence, works with him. But you know what it is like with. Tony — as usual he blows it and Samantha's job is affected.

9:10 World of Puppetry

An inventive artist, Genty uses every facet of puppetry, which he prefers to call "the theatre of animation," from stringed marionettes to hand puppets. His work blends elements of mime, dance, black light trickery and night club revue. The visual style used by his company constitutes an international language. As such, his shows have delighted audiences of all ages, throughout the world.

10:00 News in English

David Suchet as Poirot

10:20 Poirot
The Adventure of the Cheap Flat

The plans for a new submarine are stolen from the U.S. Navy. Despite his abhorrence of American crime busting techniques Poirot finds the case irresistable.

Monday, May 21

8:30 Perfect Strangers
Father Knows Best

Larry's father arrives for a visit and discovers that Larry and Balki have not played Baseball in a long time — and starts the practice ... but not without some damage.

9:10 FIFA Soccer

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Ginger Tree

War preparations are already underway in Japan ... Kato's wife dies and Mary refuses to take her place for she is still unable to see her son. And before she flees Japan she finally gets to see her son without revealing her identity.

Tuesday, May 22

8:30 Charles in Charge

9:10 The Nuclear Age

A Bigger Bang for the Buck

In the 50's the manufacturing of nuclear bombs became more efficient and the notion of nuclear deterrence came into existence. With the downing of American spy plane in 1960 by the Soviets, the cold war intensified.

10:20 In the Heat of the Night
Walk Out

Mill Manager Wade Britten refuses to concede to the demands of the union but fearing violence the Mill owner takes charge of the situation and concedes to union demands at the expense of black workers.

Wednesday, May 23

8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 A Horseman Riding By
The Hollow Victory

Paul continues to support the peasants and adopts their issues wholeheartedly. Grace leaves Paul for good and Paul wants to start life anew with Clair.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hemingway

Hemingway's internal conflict is reflected in his relationships with women. In women he looked for security. With Pauline he enjoyed the most creative period of his life.

Being 'paralysed' is no more an excuse

By Sana Atiyeh

The small oriental woman has the power to make tall men feel so small and herself appear so tall. The woman is orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Swee Chai Ang. Dr. Ang has dedicated the last eight years to helping Palestinians through her medical expertise and her love for Palestinians, a feeling she gained from those in the refugee camps in Lebanon. She says that they were the ones who taught her to be courageous and resilient as they are.

Dr. Ang's first experience with Palestinians was in the Sabra, Shatilea and Burj Al Barajneh camps, which were targets of violence from the Israeli army and certain lebanese factions. She witnessed the horrible massacres of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut in 1982 and documented her testimonies in her sensitive book, From Beirut to Jerusalem. She was then one of the founders of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), established in London as a charity organisation to raise funds for medical projects for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and in the Israeli occupied Arab territories.

When giving lectures about her experience, she always makes a point of paying tribute to the Palestinians of Sabra, Shatilea and Burj Al Barajneh camps. for these she watched refugees always rebuilding what was shattered and ruined. She watched them stand on their feet again and again, continuing their lives and living for the dream of returning to Palestine.

Dr. Ang then went to work at Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza after the Palestinian intifada erupted in December 1987. After she left Gaza almost a year ago, the Israeli authorities have not allowed her to go back. But her dedication to Palestinians did not diminish in any way. She did not feel helpless because she could not go back to her Palestinian friends, as she calls them. She continues to fight. She travels all over the world to talk about her experiences with the Palestinians whom she loves so much. She talks about how Palestinians have been hit so many times--about their need for returning to their homeland and their own state, to live a dignified life like everyone else with no one shelling them, shooting them, beating them, gassing them, imprisoning them, deporting them or demolishing their homes.

"The only peace Palestinians can and will have is a just peace, with mutual respect that acknowledges other people's right to exist," Dr. Ang says.

The doctor spends every possible time she has to make the world, particularly the West, learn the truth about Palestine and the suffering of Palestinians. And, after hearing her speak so often, there is no doubt that she has convinced thousands of people that Palestinians are human beings who deserve to be treated as such. Bringing her slides along to accompany her lectures, Dr. Ang is capable of making men cry.

The doctor, who apparently grew up in Singapore, feels she has to do something for the people she has been working with because she believes in their cause for freedom.

How do people who live closest to Palestine feel about such a woman who comes all the way from the other end of the world to dedicate her life for the cause of palestinians?

Dr. Ang needs to give her lectures to the West so that they can understand Palestinian suffering. But to have similar lectures in Jordan is not for the purpose of understanding this suffering, for we already know it very well. But for her to talk here is very essential in that it inspires those who feel "paralysed" to do something productive for the Palestinian cause.

People here give all sorts of excuses for not doing anything and run around with guilt hanging over their heads. "We cannot do anything alone," they say. Fine, the historic march towards the King Hussein Bridge last Monday proved that tens of thousands of people feel a longing to return to Palestine and feel solidarity with the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. There is no doubt that such a demonstration of unity and solidarity can boost the intifada and the morale of the Palestinians there.

But let us remember that Dr. Ang is one person, and she has done a lot, and continues to be productive for the cause, although she is not Palestinian or even an Arab. So, let us Arabs be inspired by her. Let us follow her example and try to consistently ease the pain of Palestinians inside Palestine in any possible way. The reason we used in the past was that there was "no democracy," an excuse that is hardly usable any longer in Jordan. This was proven during last Monday's successful march.

So if each one of us who feels "paralysed" does something--anything within our capabilities--for the cause of Palestine, we move a step closer to the dream of millions of Arabs of liberating Palestine and Jerusalem from Israeli occupation.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Saturday, May 19

1802 — Napoleon Bonaparte's order of Legion of Honour is created in France.

1943 — Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill tells U.S. Congress that America has Britain's full support in war against Japan.

1945 — More than 40 U.S. Superfortress bombers attack Tokyo, Japan, in World War II.

1983 — U.N. Security Council unanimously endorses four-nation Central American peace initiative as it expresses deep concern about danger of war between Nicaragua and Honduras.

1985 — Lawrence of Arabia is honoured in Moreton, England, on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Sunday, May 20

1799 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte abandons siege of Acre, defended by the Turks.

1882 — Italy joins Austro-German Alliance, which becomes Triple Alliance.

1917 — French Forces in Champagne, France, mutiny in World War I.

1927 — U.S. aviator Charles A. Lindbergh beings solo flight across Atlantic Ocean.

1929 — Japanese troops evacuate Shantung.

1967 — Communist MiG planes challenge U.S. jets over North Vietnam, and U.S. pilots claim five, possibly six, MiGs are shot down.

1974 — — Libya and Soviet Union conclude agreement for increased trade and Soviet-weapons aid to Tripoli.

1983 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration lifts nearly year-long embargo on sale of advanced F-16 fighter planes to Israel, imposed after Israel invaded Lebanon.

1985 — Three Israeli soldiers are exchanged for 1,150 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in a simultaneous swap at Geneva airport and the Middle East.

1988 — About 9,000 security men begin raiding hideouts of suspected Sikh radicals in three districts in India's troubled Punjab state.

1989 — Afghan President Najibullah proposes three-man peace commission to work toward end of civil war.

Monday, May 21

1927 — U.S. aviator Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris, completing first solo airplane flight across Atlantic Ocean.

1944 — Allied forces break through Hitler Line in Italy in World War II.

1956 — First hydrogen bomb is exploded by United States over Bikini Atoll in Pacific.

1964 — United States discloses that U.S. planes are making reconnaissance flights over central Laos to gain information on Communist forces.

1965 — Colombia government decrees nationwide state of siege following widespread student disorders.

1967 — More than 300 people perish in department store fire in Brussels, Belgium.

1970 — West Germany-'sChancellor Willy Brandt and East Germany's Premier Willi Stoph hold second summit meeting, which ends in stalemate.

1974 — Thailand government resigns seven months after being swept into power by student rebellion that overthrew military regime.

1982 — British troops attack Argentine-held Falkland Islands, with British military saying it has established beachhead at Port San Carlos.

1984 — In Bombay, India, troops battle thousands of rioters in Hindu-Muslim violence that has claimed 108 lives.

1988 — Soviet Communists dismiss party leaders in southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 32 people died in ethnic turmoil so far in 1988.

1989 — Students occupying Tiananmen Square reject government ultimatum to leave the square.

Tuesday, May 22

1914 — Britain acquires control of oil properties in the Gulf from Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

1918 — German planes raid Paris, France, in World War I.

1939 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sign "Act of Steel," a 10-year political and military alliance between the two nations.

1967 — Communist-led riots occur in Hong Kong against British.

1973 — Britain and United States veto U.N. Security Council resolution to extend trade sanctions against Rhodesia to include South Africa and Portuguese territories in Africa.

1982 — Britain says 5,000 of its troops have landed on Falkland Islands beachhead, and that 20 men are presumed dead in sinking of British missile frigate.

1984 — Soviet forces are reported to continue to bomb accesses to the Panjher Valley in northern Afghanistan, while also pursuing a diplomatic solution to the 4-year-old struggle against Afghan guerrillas.

1985 — A car bomb explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expresses optimism that agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons can be completed before U.S. President Ronald Reagan leaves office.

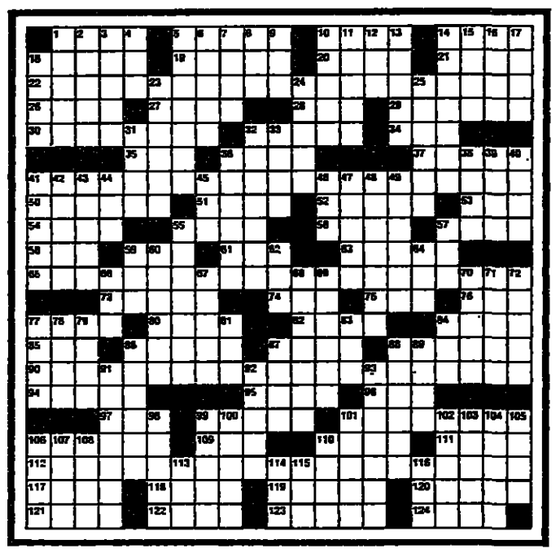
1989 — India test-fires successfully its first medium-range surface-to-surface missile to cross threshold of ballistic missile capability.

By the Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

EXTRA! EXTRA!
By William Canine

Edited by Herb Ettenson



ACROSS
1 Bistro
5 Nerd
10 Opera voice
14 Neiman Arthur
18 Iraqi seaport
19 Trampa: var.
20 Harvest-ready
21 Emptiness
22 Hollywood's big news in 1980
26 Symbol
27 Ecclesiastical reference
28 Close of day
29 Korean seaport
30 Opener
32 Celerity
34 Chicken — king
35 Wave: Sp.
36 Move along
37 Site of Hells Canyon
41 Big golf news in 1980
50 — leisure (when time permits)
51 Conceal
52 Battle lines
53 — ammoniac
54 Trumpeter Al
55 Windy City team
56 Warbled
57 Precise
58 Mil. letters
59 Court
61 Important note
63 Black eye
65 Big literary news in 1980
73 Actress Ekberg
74 Approval for toreador
75 Knock
76 Capn native: suff.
77 Liz's third
80 Lollobrigida
82 WWII vessels
84 Turk. title
85 "Where —?"
86 Bargains?
87 Attachments
88 Met obligations
90 1980's big political news
94 Certain soldier
95 Hops dryer
96 Summer in Nantes
97 Smidgen
99 Mother-of-pearl
101 Still at large
106 Indian deer
109 — deco
110 Bering Sea sight
111 Singlehanded
112 Baseball's big news in 1980
117 First-class
118 Oriental helper
119 Rangoon's land
120 O'Grady of song
121 Some loaves
122 In a fit manner
123 Eliot's Marner
124 No ifs, ands or —

DOWN
1 Brutus' co-conspirator
2 Fashionable racetrack
3 Swiss coin
4 Mark or plug
5 Walden Pond name
6 "Cheers" bartender
7 Sp. river
8 Sleiger
9 Gr. letter
10 Crazy Horse e.g.
11 Ventilated
12 Secret agent
13 Cuttlefish ink
14 Salad fruit
15 Next year's Jr.
16 Hawaii town
17 Sir Anthony
18 Grow furious
23 Stein's Alice B. —
24 Exigencies
25 Join up
31 Predicament
32 Cut with shears
33 Hoodlum
36 Ger. region
38 Church recess
39 Listen
40 Lons
41 OT prophet
42 "— far, far better —" (Dickens)
43 French horns
44 Chess piece: abbr.
45 Dallas inst
46 Draft rejections
47 Big name in Manhattan
48 Victoria Cross et al.
49 Hoof, var.
55 Cover
57 Ex-GI
59 Cyst
60 Roots
62 Oriental vegetable
64 Taste
66 Stripling
67 "A Fish Called —"
68 Oval
69 Mirage place
70 Oriental inlay work
71 Moral principles
72 Prepared
77 Ancient Ir. capital
78 Harbinger
79 Former Mex. president
81 "— Lay Dying"
83 Mao —-tung
84 Mimic
86 Massage type
87 Despot
88 John of "Hooperman"
89 Ger. river
91 Chatters
92 Might: pref
93 Sp. ladies
98 Chord type
99 Twangy
100 Mehitabel's friend
101 Moslem scholars
102 "— Like It"
103 Seaboard
104 Writer Havelock
105 Portion
106 Wrangle
107 Hail from the bridge
108 Golconda
110 Roll up
113 Ostrich kin
114 DC standard setters
115 On the — vive
116 Eyeball

Diagramless 17 X 17, By Harvey Chyka

ACROSS
1 Cried
5 Apple drink
6 Took out
11 Adore
12 School: Fr.
13 Flax cloth
14 Infinite time
17 Dobbin's meal
18 Poem
19 Loser to DDE
20 Dined
21 God of war
23 Memento
27 Mend
29 Parent
30 Operative: abbr.
33 Ethnic group
34 Taste
36 Uncover
38 — mot (witticism)
39 Was important
42 Fulton's steamer
44 "One Day — Time"
45 Soccer great
46 Rags
47 Roman garment
49 Coloring matter
50 Outside: pref.
51 Attract
54 Bergen's dummy Mortimer
56 The — the limit
57 Modern
58 Long time
60 Enemy
61 Calumet
62 Part of a Stern sentence
65 Implements
66 Perfect
67 Troublesome
69 Installs
70 Fatigues
71 Employs

DOWN
1 Spouses
2 Place of bliss
3 Each
4 Banyan or banana
5 Spotlight area
6 Legal papers
7 Land measure
8 Weight
9 Lamb's pen name
10 Hold back
11 Lasso
13 Put on freight
15 — the line (obeyed)
16 Fr. river
21 Loved greatly
22 Seldom
24 Organized work forces
25 Religious picture
26 Coin
28 — King Cole
30 Alphabet start
31 Milky Way e.g.
32 "— Last Case" (old film)
35 Energy
37 Work unit
39 Wrestling milieus
40 Like — of bricks
41 Poor grade
43 Blanc or Gibson
48 Location
50 Stretches (out)
52 Answer
53 Sheep
55 Day of old films
56 Makes dirty
59 Protuberance
60 Heroic act
61 Studies hard
63 Coral or Yellow
64 AK island
65 Ripped
68 Possessive

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Angler finds his hip boots too short for deep-flowing creek, and goes back for waders.
2. After his date with wily Lady Luck at casino, lucky tourist ran out of it.
3. Flighty gold digger had dollar signs in her eyes instead of stars.
4. Will next new satellite explore humans' past through time-lag?

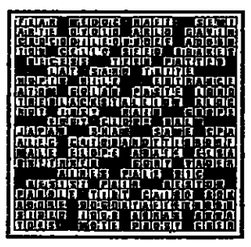
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ICNORIL FBK TBNRTAK B YZBTTRY ECXN'T EGCACWIS TCWZ HXNNXG NOBI LCCS CZS RBFHRY EXINBFXNXG. —By Gordon Miller

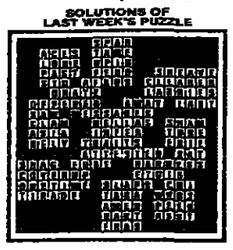
2. FIXR FIMBRICLT FLES AGRC FIGFFXMF ACGEL CL INR FABRIC XNR XS FIXMICLT IEXRC. —By Ed Huddleson

3. THIAK NEROS CHWS IROSI NSYRESY REGDV AG YRID TRAK FS USK FHUASET OGUHDV CROW. —By Lois H. Jones

4. EXFROST FREE DOMDU MOAYHRH DYOXAHXST: DMYHRH HAIR HIMEE SMEU. —By Norton Rhoades



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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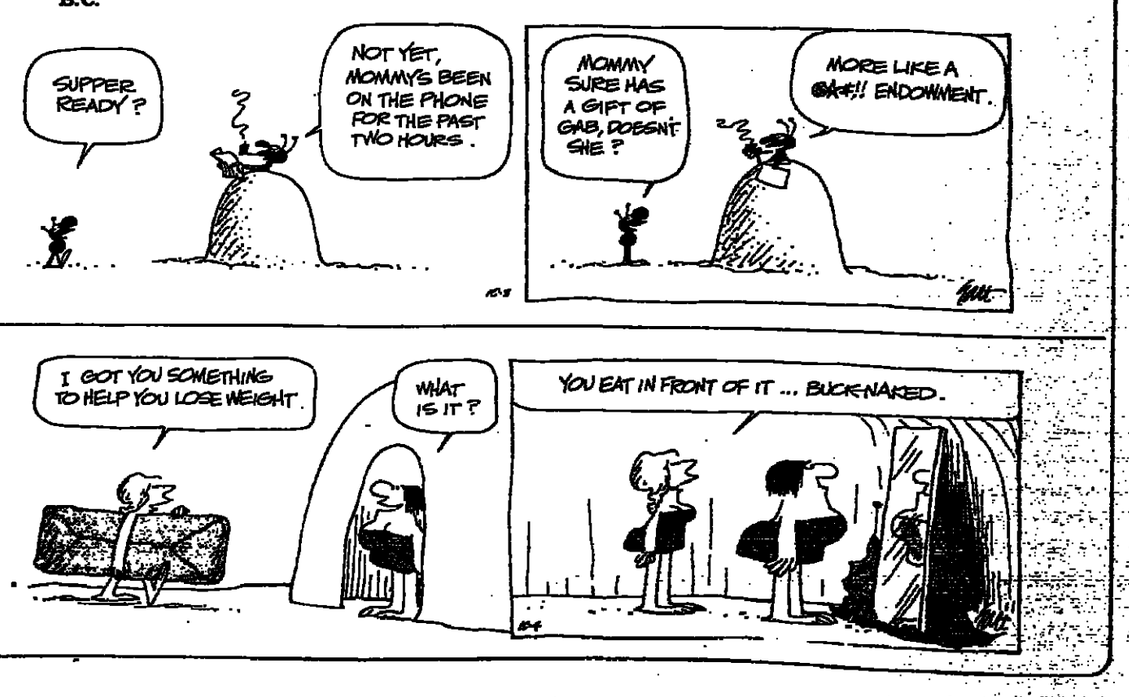

San Francisco officials turn a blind eye to needle exchanges

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — George Clark stands in front of an auto repair shop, hawking his wares as twilight descends on the seedy mission district.

"Needle exchange," Clark calls to passers-by. "Have we got something for you, Bub."

He had to say nothing more. For a year and a half, drug addicts have known where to go in the run-down San Francisco neighbourhood to exchange their used needles for new ones.

Clark and other volunteers of Prevention Point, the largest needle exchange programme in the country, hand out sterile needles once a week — at no cost to the addicts and in defiance of state law.

By distributing some 3,000 needles a week to more than 500 addicts, they are trying to stop the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users. Sharing needles is one of the most common ways of transmitting the disease.

An estimated 15 per cent of San Francisco's 6,000 to 10,000 addicts have contracted the AIDS-causing HIV virus from sharing needles. More than 200 drug users with no other risk factors are reported to have the disease.

Smaller needle exchanges are operating in Portland, Oregon, and in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, but they are legal and privately run.

On one recent morning in the Mission District Middle-aged men, prostitutes and young business professionals lined up for new needles.

Among them was Scott St John, 29, who said that if it were not for prevention point, he would be injecting illegal drugs with the syringes his fiance uses to treat her diabetes.

"I have to take my hat off to the police chief for allowing this to happen," said St John, swapping 10 old needles for the same number of fresh ones. "Those syrings my fiance gets from the county hospital are being used for her diabetes. If we couldn't get needles here, we might use those or we might pick them up from the street".

"If you need a fix, picking up dirty syringes means nothing. I've seen people using puddles for the water they need for their rigs (drug paraphernalia), or breaking into cars to use the water in the radiators."

San Francisco's Health Department provides disposal units for the used needles. City officials are lobbying for a change in state laws which currently prohibit needle exchange programmes and the local prosecutor has refused to press charges against prevention point workers.

"There were expert witnesses to testify that this programme is capable of reducing AIDS," said Assistant District Attorney Candace Heisler, explaining why the city refused to prosecute several prevention point volunteers arrested in December. None has been arrested since then.

Needle exchanges are banned in most states, but that may be changing.

Governor John Waihee of Hawaii is expected to sign legislation — supported by the Hawaii Council of Churches —creating the first state-approved needle-exchange programme.

Opponents argue that weaning people from drugs is better than exchanging needles. But Clark and others point out that drug-abuse treatment centres are full.

"You can recover from stupidity," said Dave Purchase, director of the Tacoma Programme, referring to drug use. "You can't recover from death."

Opponents also say there is no evidence that exchanging needles actually reduces the risk of getting AIDS. On the other hand, supporters point to studies in Britain, the Netherlands, Australia and Sweden showing that legal exchange programmes have dramatically reduced the sharing of needles.

Although the U.S. Centres for Disease Control reported recently that 78 per cent of intravenous drug users surveyed over a two-year period said they shared needles with other addicts, no reliable studies on the value of needle exchanges have yet been conducted in the United States.

Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco recently analysed 30 needles returned to prevention point and found that 10 of them had been used by more than one person.

"We're convinced it's doing no harm, but we don't know conclusively whether it works to halt the spread of AIDS," said the university's Joe Guydisch." There has been very little research on it, and the federal government won't fund this kind of research at this time."

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan has said the government will not spend money on needle-exchange programmes because they have not proved effective.

Furthermore, some of San Francisco's black leaders, whose neighbourhoods have high numbers of drug addicts and AIDS sufferers, strongly oppose Prevention Point.

"We need education, prevention, treatment and recovery programmes to get them off drugs," said Naomi Gray, a member of the city's health commission.

Olive oil is 'no better' than corn oil in maintaining 'good' cholesterol

CHICAGO (AP) — Olive oil may be no better for the heart than corn oil for people on low-fat diets, a new study suggests.

"When someone is eating a reduced fat diet that's low in saturated fats, it doesn't matter what kind of unsaturated fat they choose," said Darlene M. Dreon, a research scientist at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in Berkeley, California.

Previous research indicated that monounsaturated fats, found in olive oil and peanut oil, beneficially lower LDL cholesterol, so-called "bad" cholesterol, without lowering HDL, so-called "good" cholesterol.

Polyunsaturates, such as in corn oil and safflower oil, also lower "bad" cholesterol, but they tend to lower "good" cholesterol as an unwanted additional effect, previous research has indicated.

In the new study, Dreon and colleagues found that neither polyunsaturated nor monounsaturated fats offered an advantage in maintaining levels of good cholesterol in the blood for people on low-fat diets.

HDL cholesterol is called good cholesterol because it is believed to protect against heart disease; LDL cholesterol is called bad cholesterol because it is believed to contribute to fatty deposits in the arteries that promote heart disease.

Excess total cholesterol in the blood is one of the three main modifiable traits that scientists have linked to an increased risk of developing heart disease. The other two are high blood pressure and smoking.

Researchers in the new study analysed data on 20 women and 19 men who were all put on a standard diet for two weeks, then divided into groups for 12-week diets alternately rich in monounsaturates and in polyunsaturates.

The standard diet was one recommended by the American Heart Association, which calls for 30 per cent of total calories from fats, in contrast to the 40 per cent of calories from fat that the average U.S. eats.

The test diets provided the same proportion of calories from fats overall, but restricted saturated fats — the kind found in meat and dairy products — to 10 per cent. The other 20 per cent were polyunsaturates or monounsaturates, depending on which test diet was being used.

Blood levels of LDL cholesterol and HDL cholestero! did not change significantly with changing fat types, the researchers reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Linda Cashin-Hemphill, an assistant professor at the University of Southern California School of Medicine's Atherosclerosis Institute in Los Angeles, said people should aim for overall fat reduction.

Researchers look at new micro-organism as possible helper to AIDS virus

WASHINGTON (AP) — A micro-organism discovered four years ago but ignored by most researchers is now being studied as a possible infection agent that may help the deadly work of the AIDS virus.

Shyh-Ching Lo, a virologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, first found the organism and claimed that it was a novel virus that he isolated from tumor cells in AIDS patients.

The findings were dismissed by most investigators and Lo now admits that it was good reason.

"The data were not very conclusive," Lo said in a report published Friday in the journal Sicence.

In a telephone interview, Lo said other scientists now believe his finding is important enough to investigate and some labs are trying to duplicate his effort.

"When we presented this work before, it wasn't understood," said Lo. "Now they have started a lot of work looking into it."

Science said that Lo's work caught the attention of AIDS researchers because he persisted in his studies and discovered that what he thought was a virus was really a strange microbe called a Mycoplasma.

Lo was also able to isolate the Mycoplasma in large numbers in the brains, liver, spleen and kidneys of people with AIDS.

The findings were strong enough for the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases to convene a workshop last December in San Antonio and allow Lo to present his studies to some of the nation's top microbiologists.

Many experts were convinced that Lo research may have uncovered an important new infectious agent.

"It's not absolutely clear what it is doing in AIDS-related disease, but it appears to be present in many cases and seems to the sole source of the pathology in specific tissues. The evidence is reasonable," said Dr. Joel B. Baseman, a microbiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio.

Baseman, who was chairman of the workshop, said in a telephone interview that Lo's studies stood up to close scrutiny from experts in the field.

But he said it is still not clear when in the course of an AIDS infection the Mycoplasma becomes active or if the Mucoplasma is essential for the AIDS virus to cause disease.

Science, the Journal of the American Association for the Advance of Science, also reported that Luc Montagnier, a prominent French researcher and the co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, has also isolated a Mycoplasma in AIDS patients. Montagnier has speculated the Mycoplasma is a co-factor, which means it works with HIV to cause the disease.

A Mycoplasma is neither a virus nor a bacteria. It has no cell wall, but it contains genetic material and reproduces by division, as does bacteria. Mycoplasmas have been associated with some rare types of pneumonia and have been isolated in the genital tract of healthy men and women.

'Non-smokers face tobacco cancer risk'

WASHINGTON (R) — A draft report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concludes that U.S. non-smokers suffer more than 3,000 cases of lung cancer a year from breathing other people's tobacco smoke, agency sources have said.

The report marks the first official government estimate of the health effects of second-hand tobacco smoke.

Previously, the U.S. Surgeon General, America's top health officer, concluded in a 1986 peport that "involuntary smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy nonsmokers."

But that report made no precise estimate of lung cancer deaths attributable to passive smoking.

while tobacco industry officials insist that passive smoking poses no risk to health, there is a growing body of medical evidence that inhaling other people's tobacco smoke poses risks similar to those of smoking itself.

If the EPA conclusions remain substantially unchanged during a coming review, the report would result in second-hand cigarette smoke being declared a known carcinogen by the EPA, the agency sources said.

But EPA spkesman David Ryan said: "We expect substantial changes in the draft before it becomes final."

The report nonetheless has already triggered strong opposition from the U.S. tobacco industry.

In advance of the document's public release, tobacco companies have begun circulating their own studies in an attempt to challenge the evidence gathered by the EPA.

The agency has invited the tobacco industry to comment on the EPA project as an affected industry, and tobacco companies have responded by submitting considerable data that support their point of view, agency officials said.

Ancient Damascene baths relive tradition, revive body and soul

By John Baggaley
Reuter

DAMASCUS — Near the Biblical street called "Straight" in old Damascus, a narrow, ornate door opens onto a richly furnished room.

Soaring columns support a central cupola. A fountain gently plays. The perspiration running down the faces of the men jars strangely with the cool atmosphere.

This is the "Barrani", the outside room of the oldest steambaths in Syria, which leads to moist marbled halls where muscled masseurs bring grunts from perspiring clients.

"I am trying to revive the tradition of using the bath as a social centre," owner Nufaa Hammami told Reuters.

My ancestors all worked as bathers, and my family has had these baths for 30 years except for a break during the (1968) revolution when the government nationalised the baths. They returned then in 1979, he said. His family name, Hammami, means bather in Arabic.

Family tradition runs to the workers too. In the room immediately down the narrow, marble-flagged corridor from the "barrani," Adnan Haj Ahmad, 31, squats in the billowing steam and follows the trade of his father.

Clad only in white underpants, Ahmad works from 3 p.m. to midnight, apparently oblivious to temperatures of 40 to 45 degrees Centigrade (104 to 113 Fahrenheit).

"My father used to do this work, I inherited his job and have been here since 1980," he said, vigorously rubbing with the rough horse—hair glove on his right hand the soaped, tingling skin of Youssef Mohammad.

This is called "abrasive cleaning" — an extra 10 Syrian pounds ($1) at the tourist airport rate, or 50 cents at the bank), On top of the 40 Syrian pounds for the oriental bath

Mohammad grunts, as well he might, at the double-fisted blow signalling he should turn over for a bit of abrasion on the back.

Stretched on the marble floor awash with soapy water, Mohammad asserts: "steam is very good for refreshing the body and the soul".

Baths owner Hammami, invoking tradition, supports this view:"The bath was tied to religious and social duties — for cleansing and to prepare for worship."

Hammami, a young-looking 54, said he took a bath every day. "It's very good for the circulation."

In the next room, the claim of refreshing power is not immediately apparent. At 60 degrees Centigrade (140 Fahrenheit) the steam permeates the body, filming it with perspiration.

But the cool waters scooped over the body by reclining customers, from low, ornate marble basing in alcoves round the steaming room, attest to well-being born of apparent suffering.

According to the New Testament, the nearby street called Straight was where St. Paul recuperated from the temporary blindness that accompanied his dramatic conversion to christianity on the road to Damascus.

The baths, in the spice market, were built 700 years ago by Sultan Noureddin, fired by wood, for the pleasure of travellers staying in nearby caravanserais. Today the cauldrons of steam are heated by electricity.

Another modern innovation is a Sauna, where each 15 minute session is marked by the flow of an old sandglass, hanging on the wall like an oversized egg-timer.

I study German and Chinese books to learn their techniques, said masseur Zuhair Husamdin, a 34-year-old with a physique like a weight-lifter, as he pummelled a customer.

A naked child, two-year-old Emad Betar, clambers among the men sitting on the carved wooden benches draped with carpets of deep reds and blues.

The men still perspire, towels swathed round their heads and chequered sheets draped from their waists as they sip tea or cold drinks or eat fruit. Emad comes with his father Mohammad every week and looks fresh and fit.

The stress of modern life brings 200 to 300 male customers a day, including the U.S. and French ambassadors, Hammami said. Women have their own baths.

In the ancient building, steam brings the troubles of modern life under control.

"Occasionally, some hot-blooded young people come and try to annoy my customers," said Hammami.

"I just quietly raise the steam temperature. It soon drives them away."

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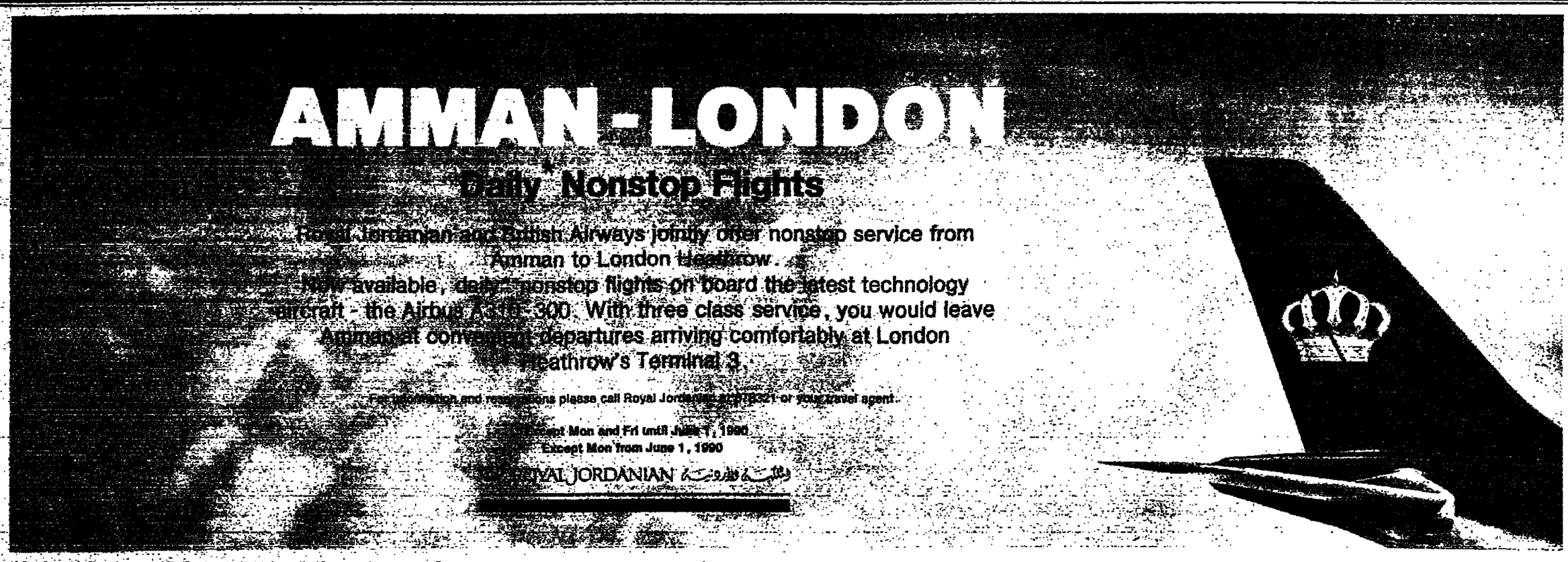


Gérard Depardieu in Fort Saganne

Gerard Depardieu leaves all others in the shade

By Pierre-Albert Lambert

PARIS — Which actor other than Gerard Depardieu could have rendered the subversive crudeness of the thug in "les Valseuses", Cyrono's tirades, Danton's ardour, Rodin's inspired brutality and Tartuffe's ambiguity with such accuracy and such success?

With some sixty films in a twelve-year-long career, this prodigious actor, leaving all others in the shade, has managed to reach the top. His admirers are all ages. Intellectuals, workers, clerks, and housewives all acclaim this hero of our times. They do not go to see a film, they go to see a "Depardieu".

He was born in the provinces in a family which was deprived of the bare essentials more often than its turn :"We only ate meat in the first days of the month when we got our family allowance", he recounts. His father was always drinking and his mother giving birth :"I have always known her pregnant, with that big belly taking up too much space in a flat whose rooms were too small".

He had a tumultuous youth and first ran away from home when he was twelve. He wandered about, stole, and became a gang-leader and struck terror with his fists and bicycle chains. Till that day in 1965 (he was then 17) when he was given a role in a short film by Roger Leenhardt: The Beatnik and the Fop. This was his salvation. His new friends, the young actors, took him along to tread the boards in café-theatre.

The second film he acted in, in 1971, was Bernard Blier's tremendous success les Valseuses . The critics unanimously hailed, the new thug charmer of French cinema and the most gifted actor of his generation . From then on, Depardieu was snowed under with proposals and put himself entirely into the most varied characters.

He acted lost souls, violent characters, and unbalanced, tragic and comical ones. He was an actor through and through, a complete actor who could play anything. He was a first-rate Frégoli, but he just as easily wore the French North African officer's uniform (in A. Corneau's Fort Saganne), the padded suit of the watchdog trainer (in A. Jessau's les Chiens), a surgeon's coat (in J. Rouffio's Sept Morts sur Ordonnance and Jean de Florette's hump (by C. Berri).

He just as brilliantly slipped into the part of a pitiless gangster, a rock-singer left by the women of his life, the resistance fighter in the last war, and the paranoiac who cut off his penis during a fit one night. Whether he is funny or pathetic, pitiful or magnificent, Depardieu is always the same, with his wrestler's shoulders, his, actor-peasant mug and his indelebile tatoos. And yet, he is never alike.

All the big directors have him in their films: Truffaut(Le Dernier Métro), Vigne (le Retour de Martin Guerre), Blier (Tenue de Soirée), Pislst (Police), Beineix (La Lune dans le Caniveau), Sautet (Vincent, Francois, Paul et les Autres), and Téchiné (Barroco). Foreign directors also use him: Bertolucci, Ferreri, Wajda, and Comencini. Recently, he even made a film in India, directed by the great Satyaajit Ray. The actor has contributed to the public success of directors reputed to be difficult: Alain Resnais (Mon Oncle d'Amériqe) and Marguerite Duras (Le Camion).

Depardieu is served by precious gifts. And, first and foremost, an amazing memory.He can read a text several pages long once, and he knows it by heart. He is a workaholic, a c ompulsive film-maker who loves taking risks and this applies to changing jobs and categories as well as the confidence he has in unknown directors. Sometimes this plays tricks on him: a certain number of his films have proved fiascos. He admits this and decides to be more demanding and more chary with his talent in future. But he cannot help it. If somebody offers him a character he has not yet played, he just jumps straight in.

At the age of 41, Gérard Depardieu has had an exceptional career..and there is no doubt that he has other surprises in store. But he remains equal unto himself. He hates all conformism, flees, "The world" and particularly the world of showbiz which he detests. He lives apart and loves nothing more than his family life, with his wife, Elisabeth, and his two children, Julie and Guillaume. His house in Chatou near Paris resounds with the echoes of Homeric get-togethers with free-flowing wine, together with his friends whom he needs as much as oxygen.

"Despite time and honours" he says, "you cannot make a zebra lose its stripes".

Bogarde makes long-awaited comeback

CANNES, France (R) — British actor Dirk Bogarde made a long-awaited return to the cinema screen as the lead in French director Bertrand Tavernier's Daddy Nostalgie , but said it could be the last film in his long career.

"It was a great, great moment for me, and I think the last. I'm not interested in other things," Bogarde told journalists after the premiere.

The 69-year-old actor has been in semi-retirement for several years, and had not accepted a film role since appearing in Rainer Werner Fassbinder's Despair in 1978.

Bogarde, who of late has devoted his energies to writing his best-selling autobiography, said his absence was due to a lack of appropriate scripts.

"For 11 year I waited with great patience. There was nothing to do in France, Italy or Britain. I wrote my books and waited for Tavernier, and finally he came".

"It was worth being patient," he said.

In Daddy Nostalgie, Bogarde plays a terminally-ill man helped by his daughter, played by compatriot Jane Birkin, to come to terms with his approaching death.

Shot in the fading autumn light of the south of France, the film is a tender, intimate exploration of the bitter-sweet relationship between a father and his daughter, who adores him but is all too aware of his faults.

"It's about time I played my age," commented Bogarde, regarded as something of a sex symbol in Britain before establishing himself as a serious actor.

As the film progresses Bogarde's character finds peace with himself, realising that what matters is not the length of life but knowing how to live the time allotted to the full.

"When you are faced with dying your life changes completely because your head is emptied of everything except what you need and your memories," Bogarde said, swopping from French to English with ease.

Tavernier said the film had been inspired by both the deaths of his own father and the father of former wife Colo Tavernier O'Hagan, who wrote the script.

The director, whose Sunday in the Country , another film about a painful father-dauchter relationship, won Best Director's Award at Cannes in 1984, got a warm reception from a partisan audience hoping a French film will win the prestigious Golden Palm Award this year.

Dirk Bogarde

French jury member Francoise Giroud caused a stir last week when she told a radio reporter she did not think France had submitted a particularly impressive selection of films.

The remark sparked a complaint from several furious French film makers and has helped fuel worried speculation in the national media about a "Crisis" in French cinema.

Tavernier scorned these fears when quizzed on the subject. "Look around you. There are plenty of good directors. I don't want to hear any more about the crisis in French cinema."

Apart from Daddy Nostalgie , France has entered "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Jean-Paul Rappeneau and Raymond Depardon's La Captive Du Desert (the Captive of the Desert) for the official competition.

Clint Eastwood bursts into speech in new African film

By Michela Wrong
Reuter

CANNES, France — The usually taciturn Clint Eastwood's acting career takes a new, loquacious turn in White Hunter, Black Heart, which has received its world premiere in Cannes.

Eastwood sprang to fame as the near-silent hero of "spaghetti" Westerns and pared his script down to little more than a husky "make my day" as detective Dirty Harry.

But he waxes positively wordy in his role as devil-may-care Director John Wilson, a closely-modelled portrait of the legendary John Huston.

"You can't do this kind of film without being wordy," Eastwood told journalists intrigued by this new departure.

"Certainly, it's different to anything else I've played before, though I've played a wide variety of roles in the past."

Eastwood, who has been coming to Cannes for the last three years, both acts and directs in this production. The film is based on a story by screenwriter Peter Viertel, who went to Africa with Huston in the 1950's to shoot the star-studded classic the African Queen.

But Viertel soon discovered Huston was obsessed with quite another kind of shooting--of an African elephant-- a fixation which led Huston virtually to Abandon his staff and came close to wrecking the entire project.

"I think this film has a big message about responsibility," said Eastwood. "The character at the end becomes a tragic figure because he has allowed his obsession to kill someone he respected and has lost a bit of himself in the process."

Eastwood depicts Wilson as "a violent man given to violent action"--cruel to those he loves, sarcastic, unpredictable, but redeemed by his rejection of racism, defence of the underdog, and determination to value art over box office receipts.

"To write a Movie you must forget that anyone's ever going to see it," says the Wilson character at one point when he is reproached for choosing an ending the public will not like.

By an interesting twist of fate, the jury judging films for the prestigious Golden Palm Award includes Huston's actress daughter Anjelica. She was tactful when quizzed earlier by journalists curious for her views on White Hunter, Black Heart, saying only that she looked formard to seeing it.

White hunter, Black Heart, is regarded as a strong entry among the 19 works competing for the Palm at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival.

Although directors, publicity agents, hopeful actors and thousands of journalists have been streaming int the Riviera resort all week for meetings in seaside hotels, the festival only opened officially past Thursday with the screening of Japanese director's Akira Kurosawa's Dreams.

Clint Eastwood

Anthony Quinn, Lauren Bacall, Martin Sheen and his son Charlie were among the stars who climbed the steps of the festival palace under the photographers' flashes for the gala premiere.

Bamboo organist keys up for a musical maintenance

By Jon Miller

LAS PINAS, The Philippines — The old stone church is dark and empty, lit only by the coloured windows glowing high among the arches near the roof. The sounds of trucks and children, like the brutal, midday heat, come through the walls in muffled waves, but the place still feels cool and quiet.

Suddenly the clap of footsteps echoes off the bamboo ceiling as a young man strides across a darkened balcony. He opens a trapdoor, then descends a ladder to a narrow walkway high above the altar. Stooping to avoid the low beams, he seats himself on a bamboo stool and tugs at some burnished wooden rods. In a moment the building fills with music.

Armando Salarza has come home. Not for good, just for a visit. But the heir to the world-famous Bamboo Organ is counting the days until he can put the Las Pinas Church — already a major tourist attraction in this industrial town on the outskirts of Manila — squarely on the world's musical map.

Salarza, an articulate and soft-spoken 23-year-old, has been studying at the Musikhochschule in Vienna, a highly selective conservatory that has produced some of Europe's best organists. In two years he will finish his studies, then return to teach and make music on the strange and beautiful instrument he's been playing since he was 9 years old.

"I think my destiny is here," he says, resting in the church's dining room after playing for a group of foreign tourists. For Salarza, that destiny is clearly mixed with duty, and he shrugs off a suggestion that he might want to continue to live in Europe, where he has adjusted easily to the language and the culture.

"I've seen lots of talented people who go to study abroad and then don't come back to the Philippines," he says, voicing what is clearly an important personal theme. "They don't share what they are supposed to share with their people."

Salarza was the first of five Filipinos to go to Austria under a programme set up by Father Johann Trummer, an Austrian priest and musician who fell in love with the Philippines, and the bamboo organ, on a visit in 1981.

Father Trummer's visit came at exactly the right time for the young Salarza. A gifted pianist who had been performing in public from the age of 11, Salarza knew that there were few opportunities to pursue a career in classic-

Armando Salarza

al music in the Philippines. So, when the priest offered him a scholarship in 1982, he was ready.

"I was very lucky that he came," he laughs, nodding at a smiling Father Trummer across the table. "I was not expecting my life to be like this at all. I was planning to graduate from high school and go into engineering."

Salarza was also lucky to have had access to the well-known organ in the first place. A native of Las Pinas whose family regularly attended services at the church, he was eight when the bamboo organ was rescued from decades of decay. As a student in the church's high school he got to play the famous instrument as often as he liked.

The original organ was built by an enterprising Spanish priest, Father Diego Cera, in 1824. It was designed in the traditional Spanish style, with a single 61-key keyboard and an abrupt change of octaves in the middle. Of its 1,031 pipes, only 129 — for the trumpet stop and for an odd, birdlike effect — are made of metal. No other organ in the world relies so heavily on bamboo for its pipes and mechanical parts.

The Spanish cleric used bamboo because it was readily available, but the resulting sound was far better than he could have imagined when he began his project. Top musicians who have played the organ in recent years praise its mellow tone and unique character. Several fine recordings have been made of bamboo organ recitals.

Like the church for which it was built, the organ has been damaged repeatedly over the years. Typhoons, earthquakes, floods and wars have all taken their toll. During one earthquake a huge stone fell directly on the organ pipes, destroying several of them. The roof of the church has been repeatedly blown off in storms, and inexpert attempts to keep the organ working were often ruinous.

By the 1960s the instrument was a wreck, but it was in better shape than nearly any of the other old, historically significant organs in the country. And by 1973 the church parish, in the midst of a drive to rebuild the church, had managed to raise enough money to have the instrument disassembled and shipped to Bonn, West Germany, where it was fully restored at the Johannes Klais organ factory.

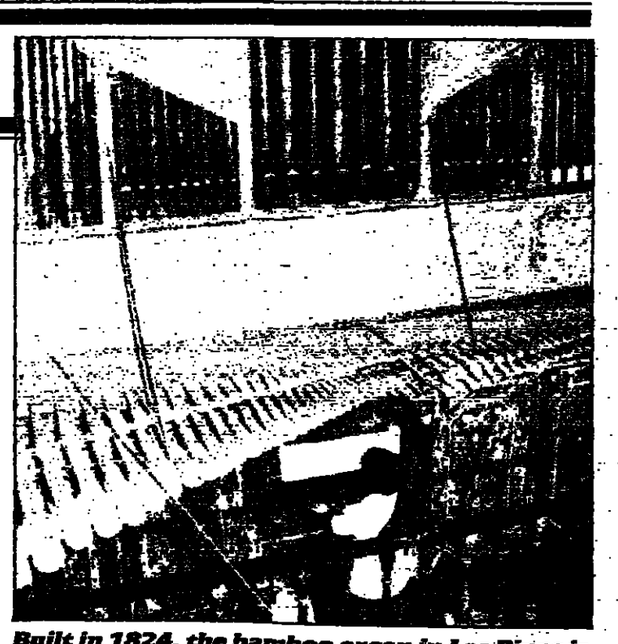
The organ was reinstalled in 1975 and the church immediately became a tourist destination. Now, in February of each year, musicians come from around the world to take part in the Bamboo Organ Festival, a series of popular concerts featuring the organ along with various local and foreign ensembles.

Father Trummer says that the bamboo organ is by no means a mere novelty or curiosity. "It's a very serious instrument, with an unchangeable character," he notes. Guy Bovet, an internationally renowned performer and an expert in Hispanic organs, agrees. "It's a wonderful instrument," Bovet said during a recent visit. "You can't compare it to others, since all organs are different. They're just like people, each with its own personality. But the bamboo organ is an excellent instrument, a special instrument, and I love playing it."

Both Bovet and Father Trummer are delighted that the organ will soon have someone of Salarza's caliber as its regular player. Nevertheless, part of a plan developed by Father Trummer and Salarza is to install a modern, more versatile organ in the Las Pinas church complex. An auditorium to house the new instrument is nearly finished, and the priest says that the organ should be in place in two years.

If all goes according to plan, the new organ will become part of an institute that will train organists and organ-builders in the Philippines. There is a ready supply of badly neglected organs in the country, perfect laboratories for teaching the exacting art of restoration.

And that is exactly in line with Salarza's vision for the future. "Someone has to start to develop talented people," he emphasizes. "There are so many talented young people here in the Philippines! You can see it if you walk out on the streets — you can hear them singing, playing the guitar. But talent is not enough. Talent has to be developed."



Built in 1824, the bamboo organ in Las Pinas is ready to sing again

So, while Father Trummer says that Salarza is already good enough to give concerts anywhere in the world, the young musician sees his calling first and foremost as a teacher. "People who get a chance to go abroad get used to the high standard of living, and they start to think they need all those material things," he says. "Well, I need food, clothing, a house. And I need to serve my country."

He adds that people who have had opportunities too often forget where they've come from and what they owe. That's especially true of those who have tasted the "good life" overseas.

"I actually think it's fear — they're afraid to come back. They're afraid of the poverty. And so they don't dare to start something that might be good for the country. I know I'm taking a risk by trying to introduce classical music to young people in the Philippines," he says, with a note of challenge in his voice. "But you know, you really must take risks like that." — World News Link.

Superpowers and Mideast arms — whose interests are served?

By Laura K. Antoni

This is the fourth and final part of an analytical report on a symposium held in Amman last week on "U.S. Policy in the Middle East."

AMMAN — With the end of the cold war between Washington and Moscow, disarmament appears to be one of the main features of the nineties. In the Middle East, however, an almost reversed process is taking place as the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved.

According to papers and studies presented by political scientists to a recent seminar organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), the region is turning into "a forest of missiles" while possession of nuclear arsenals and or chemical weapons has become major elements in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The contrast between the disarmament in Europe and the process of "brandishing" military power in the Middle East, in addition to the reentry of Iraq — which is widely viewed in the area as the only force that can counter Israeli military threat — into the Arab-Israeli conflict are raising many questions among experts, scholars and politicians:

— Why has not the Middle East been linked to the disarmament process in Europe, and more specifically, why the U.S. did not include the Israeli arsenal in its drive for reduction of conventional and unconventional arms?

— What triggered the sudden escalation of Israeli-Iraqi tension and threats to use unconventional weapons, and how can Baghdad's forceful reentry to the Arab-Israeli conflict be explained?

— Can the binary chemical weapons and missiles which Iraq has admitted to be in its possession be an adequate counter to Israel's nuclear edge? Or can the emergence of Iraq as a counter force to Israel create "a balance of terror" actually preventing a war instead of triggering it?

— What are the limitations on the use by Israel and Iraq of unconventional weapons?

— How will this apparent "arms race" affect peace prospects and/or power politics in the Arab World?

— Is it fruitful for outside or even regional powers to initiate arms reduction discussions not only as end in itself but as a means to push the peace process forward?

Although some of these questions were raised by working papers and discussing, most of them, however, appeared, at least to observers attending the two day seminar, to underline the arguments put forward during the debate.

It was only expected that not all of these questions were adequately answered and some of them led to differences among the participants.

For example, in a paper on "Mass Destruction Weapons in the Middle East: Facts and Prospects," Dr. Ghassan Salameh, a Lebanese political scientist, argued that the U.S., unlike the Soviet Union, is less concerned in linking arms reduction in Europe with the Middle East.

"The U.S. is immune vis-a-vis the strategic arms race in the Middle East. Hence there is a clear temptation to let things go since Middle Eastern missiles are a nuisance to the Soviet Union," he said.

In fact Dr. Salameh believes that the arms race in the region could be beneficial to U.S. interests "since both the suppliers (notably China) and some of the developers/users of missiles in the Middle East (notably Israel and Saudi Arabia) are no friends of Moscow."

The obvious underlying assumption in Dr. Salameh's conclusions is that although the ideological cold war might be drawing to an end both superpowers will still have vested interests in curtailing the other's influence or at least to "disturb" the other in various regions.

Unlike the Soviet Union, which is more affected by the arms race due to its proximity to the Middle East, has been insisting on a linkage between arms control in Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Salameh tends to support predictions by some Soviet and Arab experts that Israel will make a serious attempt to transform itself into a beneficiary of a renewed and upgraded "Nixon doctrine" were arms control would reinforce Israel's strategic capabilities, making it a permanent threat not only to its neighbours but also against the "southern part of the Soviet Union."

Such an assessment once again raises the question of the role of Israel in light of the changes in Eastern Europe and superpower relations. In the third part of this report, it was noted that this question was inadequately addressed during the seminar, but Dr. Salameh's conclusions raise a new set of queries that also were not discussed — do these Arab and Soviet predictions imply that Israel will continue to be considered by the most reliable American ally or is Israel planning to promote itself as a regional superpower its own regardless of Soviet-American relations?

Dr. Salameh's perception concerning the size of the Israeli threat and the role of the outside factors to recognise the linkage between arms control in Europe with the Middle East were not exactly shared by some of the American scholars.

In a paper entitled "Towards Peace in the Middle East: The Role for Arms Control," the writers, Dr. Antonia Chayes and Dr. Roy Mottahedeh, from the University of Harvard, recognised the need to emphasise arms reduction negotiations as part or means to nudge peace efforts in the region. However, the two American scholars did not treat the Arab-Israeli conflict as the major flashpoint in the region, nor did they differentiate between the two positions of the U.S. and the Soviet Union towards arms control in the Middle East.

Dr. Salameh called for an international effort, especially by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to link arms control in Europe and the Middle East, and to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict as two basic and essential elements in decreasing arms proliferation. Dr. Chayes and Dr. Mottahedeh emphasised the role of the regional players, and particularly Jordan, to initiate arms control discussions aimed at preventing the deterioration of relations (between Palestinian and Israelis), thus "laying a basis for political change."

The choice of Jordan was rather surprising to many Arab scholars and observers attending the seminar. The implied assumption, seen from an Arab point of view, is that the two scholars view Jordan as an almost detached part from the "Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

For, even though Jordan has relentlessly spearheaded calls for turning the area to a "nuclear and chemical weapon-free zone," Jordan views itself as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and recently His Majesty King Hussein staunchly backed Iraq's emergence as a deterrent force to counter Israel.

However, the American scholars' proposals clearly reflect recent emphasis on the West on a Palestinian-Israeli (communal) conflict rather than on an Arab-Israeli conflict. Within the context of such a definition, the Palestinian problem becomes only one part of many "similar disputes" in the region — as was indicated in the American paper.

Furthermore, such a perception changes the implications of the practical forceful reentry of Iraq into the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Consequently, the two American scholars did not give much attention — except for a mere reference in the section dedicated to chemical weapons — to the impact of the reentry of Iraq into the conflict. In fact, in listing the main conflicts in the region, Iraq's name is mentioned in terms of its "rivalries and conflict" with Iran, Syria, and the Gulf monarchies. The only reference to Iraq's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict was made when the writers conceded briefly that the Arabs view Iraq's possession of chemical weapons as a deterrent force to counter Israel.

Dr. Salameh dedicated a considerable part of his paper to the impact of the proliferation of conventional and unconventional weapons, including missiles and chemical weapons, on the prospects of war and peace in the region.

Dr. Salameh argued that the uproar in the West over Iraq's admission of possession of chemical weapons did not take into account that Israel was the first to introduce unconventional weapons to the region.

Moreover, Salameh did not view an equation between Israel's unacknowledged, possession of nuclear weapons and Iraq's possession of chemical weapons. He even played down the role of chemical weapons as a deterrent force.

"There remains, however, a gap between nuclear deterence and chemicals as "the deterrent of the poor," which, as massive as it could be, cannot make up for," he contended.

But at the same time, Dr. Salameh did not underplay the build-up of conventional and unconventional weapons on the Arab side despite his argument that it does not measure up to the nuclear build-up on the Israesli side. He said it has produced new realities which influences the options of war and peace.

— First, the introduction of non-conventional arsenals is already making wars less predictable.

— Second, in Dr. Salameh's view, a crushing defeat like the one suffered by the Arabs in 1967 is unlikely.

— The Arab side is in a better position — albeit in terms of defence — than it has been in two decades.

In contrast the paper presented by Dr. Chayes and Mottahedeh focuses more on various procedural scenarios and their limitations to start arms control negotiations in the region without elaboration into the substance of the conflicts themselves.

Both papers, however, stress the need for solving the conflict — although the American paper does not put a similar emphasis on the Arab-Israeli conflict — through an international peace conference.

The American paper, however, sees serious limitations for international powers while providing a bigger part for regional parties.

Dr. Salameh views roles for both international and regional powers. On the international level, Dr. Salameh argues that the big powers should make a linkage between arms control in Europe and the Middle East, and pressure Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and that the West should abandon the theory that Israel's security makes its leaders more positive to deal with peace proposals. "No one would really contest that the Arab defeat in the first war has led (among other factors) to the arms race ...and later on Israel systematically upgraded its military superiority," he said.

In his conclusion, Dr. Salameh stressed the need to find an immediate just solution of the Palestinian problem as a means of ending the arms race and reduction of weapons.

During the discussions, however, some American scholars repeatedly stressed extreme concern about Israel's "security," reflecting an apparent prevailing assumption in the West that Israel remains the party that is threatened the most.

"This is really a major problem: When the West hears about threats of war in the Middle East, it becomes obsessed with the security of and danger posed to Israel. When we hear about threats of war, we immediately think about yet another Israeli occupation, more Israeli expansionism and a new Palestinian exodus," Zaki Al Ayoubi, a Jordanian, noted.

Parliament to meet

(Continued from page 1)

The official said the government had no indication that any "organised group" was behind the violence. "I'd say that more than anything else emotions prompted the attempt to proceed beyond the agreed-upon point," he added.

Replying to a question on the financially troubled Arabic-language daily Sawt Al Shaab, the official confirmed that the government, which owns a controlling interest in the newspaper, was considering several options to deal with the situation, but "no final decision has been taken yet." Reports have suggested that the daily was going to be sold to a group of private investors who planned to close the paper for one month after which it will reappear under the new name, "Al Watan."

The official categorically dismissed a report which appeared early this month in a Jerusalem-based newspaper that a member of the Jordanian Armed Forces was detained suspected of being an agent of Israel's Mossad secret service. "It was a totally false report," he said. "Since 1984, no member of the Armed Forces has ever been suspected of being an agent of any foreign country," he said. He did not elaborate.

The official confirmed that a Jordanian journalist was held and released after a few days in connection with the report. "The case is closed now," the official said.

He confirmed that the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the Middle East situation and other issues of common Islamic interest as well as Jordanian-Pakistani relations would be among the topics to be discussed here by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is scheduled to arrive Friday on a two-day visit. The official declined to be drawn into discussing what the Jordanian position over Kashmir is.

18 shot and wounded

(Continued from page 1)

of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories has caused "economic disruptions" which "had a detrimental effect on the Arab populations' means of livelihood," said the report.

It called for a "more positive approach" by Israeli authorities towards Palestinian trade union organisations. "The recent trade union unification seems to indicate the organisations' wish to develop a professional approach in order to enhance their collective bargaining capacity," it said.

The report, based on two ILO missions to Israel and five Arab states earlier this year, was compiled by ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne. It is prepared annually since 1978.

Palestinian nationalist leaders called Wednesday for a halt to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel pending an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

"We call for a halt to the influx of Jewish immigrants as this issue is linked to the possibility of achieving a just and permanent peace," a statement issued by leading nationalist figures said.

The memorandum, issued at an Arab Jerusalem news conference, also called on Israel to withdraw troops from Arab population centres, release prisoners detained during the 29-month-long uprising and open all institutions closed by the army.

"Such goodwill gestures would create an atmosphere to talk peace," said Mustafa Natshe, deposed mayor of Hebron.

Trade union leaders, lawyers, doctors and members of women's organisations presented the memorandum marking the 42nd anniversary of the British withdrawal from mandatory Palestine and the establishment of Israel May 15.

Palestinian sources said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine would not endorse the final text because it opposed explicit recognition of Israel.

Zarqa

(Continued from page 1)

ducted in a very peaceful and calm atmosphere.

Several blocs, which in essence represent various political trends and assume the place of parties in the absence of legalised political groupings, were contending the elections with a thin sprinkling of four "independents."

Each of the blocs had a member of the Bani Hassan tribe, the largest in the region, according to election observers. These included an "Islamic Action Bloc" — mainly representing the Muslim Brotherhood, which secured two of Zarqa's four Lower House seats in last November's general elections — a leftist "National Bloc," an "Action and Reform Bloc" made up of liberals, technocrats and traditional personalities and a "Unity Bloc" representing semi-tribal groups linked to large families in the city of 450,000 residents.

According to many experts, the Islamic Action Bloc was expected to put up a "very good" show in the results, mainly due to its Muslim Brotherhood content.

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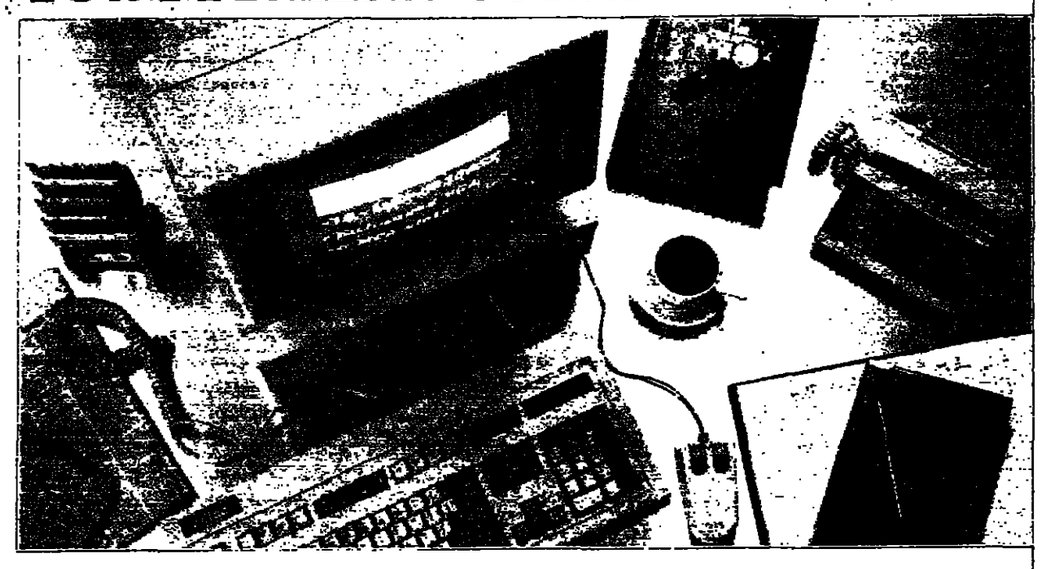

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Soviet Union granted observer status in GATT

Moscow takes on a bigger role on world economic stage

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

LONDON — Step by step, President Mikhail Gorbachev is staking the Soviet Union's claim to a greater role on the world economic stage.

In Geneva Wednesday, with a minimum of ceremony, Moscow was granted observer status at the international trade body General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). And, in two weeks' time in Paris, the Soviet Union is due to sit down with 39 other nations to sign the statutes of a new bank to channel assistance to Eastern Europe.

But the unresolved debate over economic reform in Moscow and Western worries at events in Baltic states means that full integration into the global economy and membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is probably years away.

"The Soviets are trying to integrate themselves into the international economy," said Philip Hanson, professor of Soviet economics at Birmingham University in England.

"But it is going to be a very long haul."

Gorbachev surprised Western leaders almost a year ago at their Paris summit with a proposal for closer economic policy coordination.

It was a far cry from 1947 when the Soviet delegate to the United Nations denounced the IMF and World Bank — set up towards the end of World War II as twin pillars of the world's financial system — as mere "branches of wall street."

Over the past 12 months, Western monetary officials have detected a major shift in attitude as Moscow steps up contact with Western-dominated agencies that it shunned in the cold war.

That change was summed up by Ernest Obminsky, head of the Soviet delegation to East-West economic talks in Bonn two months ago, when he said: "We must work further to free ourselves from the inertia of bloc mentality... and exclusive group psychology."

The reasons for the shift are complex and diverse.

A tortuous on-off, on-off debate over reform in Moscow has left the economy in limbo. Some economists believe Gorbachev is trying to tie the Soviet Union into the Western system of free markets to ensure the demise of central planning.

The collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe has seriously disrupted the Soviet Union's trade as the old Comecon system based on the "transferable rouble" and barter with its former satellites disintegrates. Moscow desparately needs to reorganise its trade and open up to new markets in the West.

Needs advice

Moscow also realises it needs Western advice on coping with the transition from Stalinist economics to the free market. Economists say recent delays on payments to Western firms have been caused by organisational problems and managerial inexperience as Soviet companies are given new autonomy.

But they say Soviet reform has to go further before Moscow can be welcomed with open arms as a fully fledged partner in all Western financial organisations.

The rouble has to be made freely convertible into Western currencies and the system of subsidies that distorts almost all aspects of industrial and agricultural life must be dismantled.

Observer status in GATT is still a long way from full membership and Moscow will take no part in the group's Uruguay Round of negotiations designed to break down barriers to world trade.

The new status is, however, a strong signal of growing acceptance and encouragement from major GATT players such as the United States and Japan and far from devoid of practical value.

"What should be highlighted in the case of the Soviet Union is the fact that its authorities have... underlined their wish to learn from this market-economy-based system and to keep members of the GATT informed of its process of economic reform," the organisation's Director-General Arthur Dunkel said in Geneva.

Mikhail Gorbachev

Soviet authorities have also taken up contact with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, a forum of 24 leading industrial countries now closely involved in the West's assistance for Eastern Europe.

Moscow's role in the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO), until recently dormant, has sprung back to life and it has backed studies on the impact of East-West arms cuts on industry and employment in the Soviet Union.

And at the end of this month, Moscow is due to become a six per cent shareholder in the French-inspired European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), a new multilateral agency expected to play a major role in East European economic reform.

Khartoum starts talks with IMF

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan, which owes 27 per cent of total member debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has opened talks with the IMF in Khartoum after being threatened with expulsion, diplomats and experts said Wednesday.

Africa's largest nation in area with 26 million people, Sudan has an overall foreign debt estimated at more than $12 billion and diplomats said it had not serviced its loans since 1985.

It has been crippled by civil war, drought, floods and famine and an influx of refugees from neighbouring states in recent years.

It owes the IMF 870.6 million special drawing rights (SDRs), or $655 million — 27 per cent of total arrears due to the fund from member states.

"It was given till July 15 to correct the situation or face what the IMF calls 'a declaration of non-cooperation,' which means expulsion," one diplomat said.

In February the IMF declared Sudan "ineligible to use the general resources of the fund."

A member of the IMF team, which arrived here last week, refused to comment on the talks. Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has said Khartoum was serious in its drive to reform the economy but would not bow to IMF demands.

"They are not here to discuss economic reforms, but first to resolve Sudan's status in the IMF," one diplomat said.

Bashir said the IMF had requested a devaluation of the Sudanese pound, a freeze on salaries and an increase in customs duties. "We will never do that," he was quoted by the local press as saying last month.

The dollar is worth about 40 pounds on the black market while the official book rate is about 4.30 pounds. There is also an incentive rate of 12.25 pounds.

The IMF argues that most of Africa's 14 debtor nations have paid part of their arrears to the fund, but Sudan has fallen more than 67 months behind.

Iran bans companies blamed for economy ills

TEHRAN (R) — Iran Tuesday abolished private investment companies alleged to have undermined the economy by disruptive speculation and misusing funds of small savers.

The so-called "Mozarebeh firms" offered up to 48 per cent a year on deposits compared with only seven per cent from banks, irresistible to thousands of small investors hit by inflation running at 28.5 per cent annually.

"Mozarebeh firms are illegal and no institutions except banks are authorised to engage in Mozarebeh," Tehran General Prosecutor Ali Yunessi said in a statement.

Yunessi said the profits paid by Mozarebeh firms "were not the result of business activities but came from the capital paid by new investors."

The firms are supposed to pay depositors monthly shares of profits from the commercial activities they have invested in using their clients' money.

Officials in such firms which waste people's deposits would be prosecuted as swindlers and people who continue to invest would not get legal protection, Yunessi said in the statement broadcast by Tehran Radio.

Newspapers and television have highlighted the plight of depositors who lost their life's savings when several Mozarebeh firms defaulted in the past six months.

Directors of at least six such firms are in jail after complaints by investors, according to newspaper reports.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your desire today is to have a more specific accord with those whom you regard as true partners. A token of your affection breaks down all opposition bringing excellent rapport.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will need to use more than average care in whatever activities you engage in today for at one moment there are big delays, the next strange conditions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put off trying to have a good time at those weekend pleasures until a more propitious time and show you can maintain poise and calmness.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the time for you to be as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove where home conditions are concerned as much strain there exists.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well whatever shopping or other jaunts on your agenda today for they are not likely to work out as you anticipated.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to postpone any talks about money or other practical matters until a latter time and fix property repairs needed yourself.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever concerns you personally can have many obstacles in the path as well as you yourself causing some by your own natural impatience.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Some stoppage in getting out in the world to anticipated tasks can be overcome by using time thus freed to get rid of confidential chores.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are uncertain the best manner to go after a longing that means a great deal to you and when the stars favor you more is a better time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over your best ways to eliminate blocks in the path of your worldly interests and activities and wait till a better time to put in motion.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Expectations of visitors or communications from afar can be delayed or very disappointing to you so concentrate upon other hopes, wishes.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't get depressed by absent friends but you have a good day to look over what your present financial is and to plan to rectify errors now.

PISCES: (Febraary 20 to March 20) Stay completely out of the public eye today and tonight and instead put that energy and vitality into your ability at straightening out surroundings.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"Forty-five years old and my hands are still as soft as a baby. A baby lobster!"

New fund to push sales of American businesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new $500 million "development pool" will be used to push the sales of U.S. businesses in the Far East against competition from Japan, France, Britain and other countries, U.S. agencies said Tuesday.

To start, the money will go largely for loans to Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). AID will provide $100 million of the total from money in its economic support fund, most of which goes to Israel and Egypt.

"The programme will be limited to markets where other governments already are engaging in extensive, trade-distorting tied-aid finance activities," AID said in a statement.

"Tied aid" means requiring a Third World Country that gets the aid to spend it in the donor country, thus insuring that the business goes to the donor country's industry. Tied aid usually takes the form of a loan at a low rate of interest, subsidised by the donor government.

Jeni Falkiewicz, speaking for the Export-Import Bank, said much of the tied aid has come from Japan, France and Britain.

Successive U.S. government have opposed the practice but have joined in it under pressure from American businesses. American business people say that other countries' tied aid prevents them from getting lucrative contracts — that Americans often have "better products" but lose out to subsidised financing from competitor countries.

Last week John D. Macomber, president of the Export-Import Bank, said he would try to get tied aid outlawed for some categories of products, including power plants and communications system. Tied aid often goes for big items such as aircraft aid, in the past, nuclear power plants.

AID said the new pool will support projects in telecommunications, transportation, power and construction equipment.

AID has cooperated with the bank on some projects, but the new pool is the first large-scale effort of its kind. Its formation follows statements in congress that the purpose of U.S. aid should be reconsidered. Some members want to weigh the need of the country being helped against the pressure to help U.S. business and the jobs it provides to Americans.

According to the announcement, projects helped by the pool will meet aid criteria and will be in line with the priorities of the recipient country. It said none of the money will come from aid funds marked particularly for development assistance.

In addition to the $100 million from AID's economic suppot fund, the pool will include Export-Import Bank guarantees of $300 million worth of loans given by private banks. These guarantees enable the banks to charge the borrowing country lower rates of interest.

There will also be $100 million from the bank's tied-aid credit fund. This is usually called the "war chest," used to match offers of tied aid from competing governments.

Menem may use imports to halt price increase

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — President Carlos Menem Tuesday said price controls will not be imposed and warned that import restrictions will be relaxed, if needed, to hold down rising prices of basic food products.

"There will be no price controls," Menem told reports in answer to questions on how his government plans to counter a sharp rise in consumer prices during the first week of May.

Instead, he said, the government "will open importation in order to force down the prices" of some products.

The economy ministry said Tuesday that consumer prices rose 5.9 per cent in the first week of May, a rise that could endanger government hopes of controlling hyperinflation that has plagued the country in recent months.

The cost of living rose 11.4 per cent during all of April, sharply down from the 95.5 per cent recorded in March. Economic officials, who attributed the drop to severe anti-inflationary policies, predicted that the May figure would be reduced to a single digit.

The secretary-geneal of the Food Workers Union, Roberto Cori, charged that retailers had hiked prices of basic food products by between 17 and 20 per cent during the first week of May.

"Every time the workers get a little bit ahead the businessmen celebrate with new price increases," Cori charged.

"We're not going to persecute anyone," Menem told reporters. "We're firmly against price controls." But, he added, "we're going to use imports, which are a powerful weapon."

Importation of food products is prohibited. Restrictions have been lifted on occasion by previous governments as a means of reducing prices of local products by permitting importation of cheaper foreign goods.

No interference

Menem also said the government has no plans to interfere with the country's exchange market, which has operated free of controls since January. He described the Tuesday exchange rate of 5,290 australs to one U.S. dollar as "reasonable."

The value of the dollar, which traditionally is used by Argentines as a hedge against inflation, rose to a high of 6,000 australs in late February, but fell to 4,700 in March after the government took steps to reduce the money supply.

Menem, a 59-year-old lawyer and former provincial governor, has pledged to drastically cut inflation and to spur economic growth by balancing the budget, selling money-losing state companies, deregulating monopolies, ending subsidies, lowering trade barriers, reforming tax laws and ending corruption.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 16, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8	441.4
Pound Sterling	1112.4	1119.1	Dutch guilder	360.6	363.8
Deutschemark	405.3	407.6	Swedish crown	111.1	111.8
Swiss franc	476.6	479.5	Italian lira (for 100)	55.1	55.4
French franc	120.3	121.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	196.2	197.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6750/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1755/65	Canadian dollar
	1.6498/6505	Deutschemarks
	1.8550/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4017/24	Swiss francs
	34.14/19	Belgian francs
	5.5675/5725	French francs
	1214/1215	Italian lire
	151.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.0275/6.0325	Swedish crowns
	6.4185/4235	Norwegian crowns
	6.3080/3130	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	369.50/369.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks closed easier as institutional investors waited on the sidelines to see if the Nikkei might retreat from recent gains. The Nikkei fell 45. 61 to 31,997.04.

SYDNEY — Australia's sharemarket closed weaker as traders abandoned leading stocks, wiping out most of the gains made on Monday. The All Ordinaries fell 14.1 to 1,493.8.

HONG KONG — Shares closed weaker but light afternoon buying took stocks off their lows. The Hang Seng Index ended 16.20 points down at 2,948.89.

SINGAPORE — The market closed lower on profit-taking after last week's strong gains. The Straits Times Index of 30-Singapore blue chips fell 6.51 points to end at 1,524.35.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed after a clash between striking employees and others who decided to continue to work.

FRANKFURT — Shares were slightly lower after session brightened by rise in Deutsche Bank and news its group partial operating profit rose 16 per cent in first quarter. The Dax Index was down 9.48 points at 1, 841.77.

ZURICH — The bourse closed steady to firmer but bearer shares and certificates of major insurers came under strong selling pressure. The SPI Index closed 0.4 point up at 1,119.4.

PARIS — After fluctuating in a narrow trading band, French share prices ended steady on yesterday's close. The CAC-40 Index closed 0.03 point up at 2,070.70.

LONDON — U.K. stocks rallied further in busy trading, drawing strength from recent perky corporate news. At the close the FTSE Index was up 8.9 points at 2,221.1.

NEW YORK — Blue chips continued lower as profit-taking whittled away recent gains. The Dow Jones industrial was off 10 at 2,812 points.

Daimler defends strategy despite stagnant earnings

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — The chairman of Daimler-Benz AG, West Germany's largest company, pledged Tuesday that he would stick to a strategy of global diversification despite stagnating profits.

Responding to recent criticism in the West German press that the company had expanded too fast and at the wrong time, managing board Chairman Edzard Reuter said the course had been set and he would follow it.

"It may be asked here and there whether we have perhaps taken on too much at once. Our answer is that one cannot choose the circumstances in which a corporate strategy, once adopted, has to be implemented," Reuter said.

"The world is in motion, and like countless other companies, we just have to — or rather want to — move with it."

Daimler earlier Tuesday reported a drop in its 1989 earnings per share to 51.05 West German marks ($31.12) from 57.85 ($35.27) the year before.

Analysts expect earnings per share in 1990 either to flatten or decline a little before 1991 when the benefits of an entire new range of cars should start to spark life into profits.

"There is no denying that since 1985 annual results have stagnated, albeit at a very high level," Gerhard Liener, management board member for finances, told a news conference.

Daimler reported last month that 1989 group net profit on a comparable basis was more or less unchanged at 1.7 billion marks ($1.04 billion).

Reuter attributed the weak earnings to currency-related difficulties in the United States, continued low sales of diesel cars in West Germany and cost problems. He did not expect the effect of these factors to increase during 1990.

Nevertheless he said he was satisfied with the results.

He declined to forecast Daimler's profits for 1990 but said he expected group sales to rise to around 85 billion marks ($51.8 billion) from 76.4 billion marks ($46.58 billion) last year, which was up four per cent on the previous period.

On the way Daimler has acquired electronics group AEG AG, aircraft engine maker Motoren-Und Turbinen Union (MTU) and aircraft maker Dornier. The acquisition phase was crowned last year when the Bonn government approved Daimler's takeover of aerospace group Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB).

Poles rush to buy first slice of capitalist company

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

WARSAW — Pensioner Kazimierz Kaminski counted out his life savings, handed them to the cashier and walked out into the streets of Warsaw clutching a share certificate.

He had just become one of the first small-scale capitalist investors in the new, non-communist Poland.

"I bought for two million zloties ($210). It's all my savings," he said, showing his certificate for 100 shares in Universal S.A., the first big Polish company to go private in the economic revolution sweeping Eastern Europe.

"I am a very determined capitalist," said Kaminski, whose investment was the equivalent of two months' average wages for an industrial worker. "I hope this is a guarantee: for me, for my future. I can't see a better possibility. It is a new way and I hope this is a good company."

Kaminski is one of hundreds of people who have queued up daily since Universal opened a public offer May 7 for nearly 10 million shares valued at 98.5 billion zloties ($10.4 million). The shares sell at 20,000 zloties ($2) each or twice their face value.

Small investors, many of whom can afford only one, two or perhaps 20 shares, are being lured by slick radio and television advertisements and offers of a chance to win a free bicycle for the children if they buy Universal.

"Don't buy presents... Universal shares are the best present," says one radio commercial.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

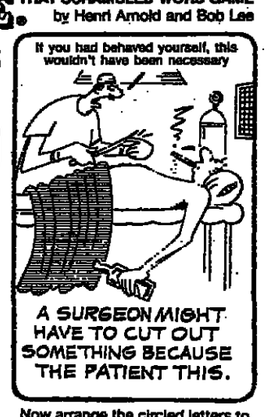
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAFAT

YIZZD

FROMIN

TIPIDE



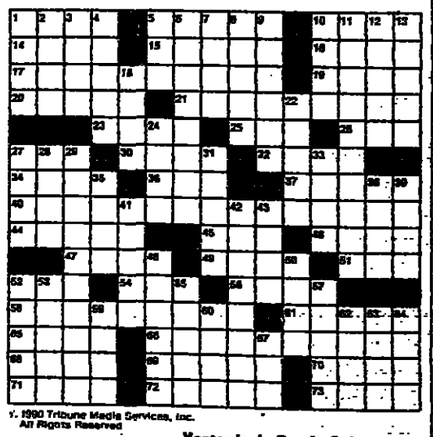
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JUMBO TOXIC SCORCH PIRACY
Answer: Something often found in newspapers and on beaches—A COMIC "STRIP"

THE Daily Crossword by Donald B. Groat



ACROSS
1 Ms Ponselle
5 Disconcert
10 "One small — for..."
14 Asgard's chief
15 Cellist Casals
16 Reputation
17 Sp. monastery site
19 Director Kazan
20 Patois
21 Honchos of a kind
23 AK port
25 City in Brazil (with 55D)
26 Driving aid
27 Marsh
30 Treaty
32 Hayseed
34 Amend copy
36 — de la Paix
37 Author Lagerlof
40 Big rig
44 Composer Franz
45 Haggard heroine
46 Pain in the neck
47 Besom unit
49 Ireland
51 Flat fish
52 Bat wood
54 Kind of service
56 Harmful act
58 Vehicle dimension
61 Occupancy contract
65 Gambling game
66 Reinforced
68 Once follower
69 Fatty liquid
70 Laced
71 Meniscus e.g.
72 Half and quarter
73 Warhol

DOWN
1 Caesar's urbs
2 Redolence
3 Chant
4 Actress Susan
5 Do like
6 Patio activity
7 Dugout
8 Produces scoria
9 Armed conflict
10 Knife old style
11 Liar
12 Rousseau hero
13 "— porridge hot..."
18 Pause
22 Congress
24 Stable beast
27 Sense
28 Ms Adams
29 Plumed bird
31 On edge
33 Signal
35 Deliquesce
38 Tableland
39 Chi-chi
41 Vibrate
42 Formal wear
43 Sandwich type
48 Gorilla's cousin
50 Part of ESG
52 Disgusting
53 Phantasm
55 See 25A
57 Seed cover
59 Vast time periods
60 Printing term
62 R — Roger
63 Sow
64 Vortex
67 Some carp takers

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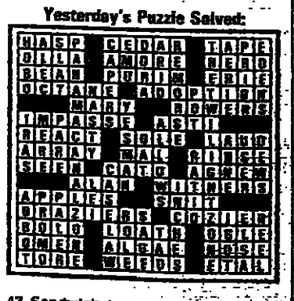
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



هكذا من الأصل

Cesar agrees to join Juventus

ROME (R) — Brazilian international Julio Cesar has reached agreement for a transfer next season to first division Juventus, winners of the Italian Cup

Cesar, 27, who is currently with French club Montpellier, told Italy's Gazzetta Dello sport, newspaper he had had talks with Juventus officials last week, but said the transfer would not yet be formally announced.

Juventus declined to confirm or deny the report but club sources said Montpellier would get three billion lire ($2.4 million) for the Brazilian, who would sign a two-year contract.

Cesar played in the 1986 Brazilian World Cup squad but has been left out of the 1990 lineup.

Juventus are expected to release two of their current foreign players, Rui Barros of Portugal and Alexander Zavarov of the Soviet Union, next season. Another Soviet player, Sergei Aleinikov, is expected to stay with the club alongside Cesar.

French club Metz are reportedly interested in British striker John Salako, one of the stars of the Crystal Palace team that forced Manchester United to Thursday night's F.A. Cup final replay.

Nigerian-born Salako came under the scrutiny of Metz officials at Saturday's 3-3 Wembley draw.

Also in Britain, Chelsea have agreed to pay Norwich a club record fee of £1.15 million ($1.9 million) for Irish international Andy Townsend.

Chelsea are worried, however, that if Townsend shines too brightly during the World Cup finals next month, foreign teams could show an interest. They are hoping to clinch the deal before the finals begin.

In France, Nantes are reported to have received offers from Belgium's Anderlecht and Spain's Atletico Madrid for their Yugoslav striker Dragan Jacovljevic, a disappointment in his first season with the French club.

Nantes are apparently keen to wait and see Jacovljevic's performance in the World Cup with the Yugoslav national team fore taking any decision.

Former West German international Bernd Schuster, star of the European championship finals 10 years ago, says he will leave Real Madrid when his contract ends in June next year.

He told the Marca soccer daily he would be leaving Spain altogether, but did not specify whether he would be going back to West Germany. The talented but temperamental midfielder left Cologne for Barcelona in October 1980, moving to Real in 1988.

Schuster said that although the 1989-90 season had been good for Real — they won the league title — his own season had been dogged by injuries and yellow cards.

Stoichkov signs $4m contract

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgarian national soccer team captain Hristo Stoichkov will play for Barcelona under a $4 million contract, the state news agency BTA has reported. Stoichkov is also captain of the first league club CSKA and one of Bulgaria's best players. After expiration of the five-year contract, Barcelona has the right to transfer the Bulgarian player. BTA said the document was signed in the presence of representatives of the Bulgarian Soccer Association

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANNAH HIRSCH

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠106 ♡K1063 ◇QJ92 ♣Q92
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠106 ♡K1063 ◇QJ92 ♣Q92
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold
♠106 ♡K1063 ◇QJ92 ♣Q92
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2	Pass	?	

What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q98532 ♡K4 ◇J42 ♣95
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A ♡KQJ1085 ◇K5 ♣J832
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	?	

What is your opening bid?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠72 ♡KQ109542 ◇954 ♣6
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
Look for answers on Monday.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

Graf defeats Paz

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Steffi Graf, playing in front of East German fans for the first time, opened defence of her German Open title Tuesday with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Mercedez Paz of Argentina.

Graf, the no. 1 player in the world who had a bye into the second round, overwhelmed the 76th-ranked Paz in just 50 minutes to claim her 63rd straight singles win.

"I wanted to do well for them (the East Germans)," said the West German. "When you are on the court you just concentrate on playing, but I wanted to show them some good shots."

Graf was joined in the third round by fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, who overwhelmed Wiltrud Probst of West Germany 6-1, 6-0; 13th-seeded Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union, who beat Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-1 and unseeded Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, who upset no. 14 Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-0, 6-3.

Later in the day, sixth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain and seventh-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia both advanced with straight-sets wins over Natalia Medvedeva of the Soviet Union and Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden, respectively.

Graf's next opponent will be 17-year-old Katia Piccolini of Italy, who bounced back from a 3-6, 1-4 deficit to oust Florencia Labat of Argentina 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

More than 400 hundred fans from East Germany, paying only three marks ($1.7), crowded a specially constructed stand at the Rot-Weiss tennis club in West Berlin. After the match, a stream of young fans climbed over the courtside fence to ask Graf for her autograph.

Graf, surrounded by fans from both East and West, stayed on court for about 10 minutes signing autographs.

"I enjoy signing autographs but sometimes it can get too much," said Graf, who had to be led from the court by three tournament security officials.

Earlier, up to 5,000 fans in East Berlin flocked to the downtown Alexander Platz to witness an exhibition of short tennis on improvised courts by Argentine star Gabriela Sabatini, who mixed with local youngsters for two hours.

Sabatini, the no. 4 seed, plays her first match at the German Open Thursday when she meets Elise Burgin of the United States. Second-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia will also play Thursday against Nicole Jagerman of the Netherlands.

In other games, French Open winner Michael Chang and defending Italian Open champion Alberto Mancini are discovering that success is sometimes a very hard act to follow.

"I think everyone compares everything I do to the French Open," Chang said Tuesday after losing his first-round Italian Open match 6-3, 6-3 to Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden.

"It makes things rather difficult," he said.

"It was very difficult to come back here," Mancini observed after churning out a 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 win over fellow Argentine Christian Miniussi. "Having won the tournament last year, it's tough to start all over again from scratch."

The 18-year-old Chang was seeded seventh at Rome. Mancini is the tournament's 16th seed; Thursday, he will meet Henri Leconte.

Juan Aguilera, who defeated Boris Becker last week to win at Hamburg, lost his first-round match to Alexander Volkov. And U.S. player David Wheaton, fresh from his victory at the U.S. men's clay court championships, was eliminated by Brazil's Luis Mattar.

Other seeds scheduled for second-round action Thursday were no. 1 Brad Gilbert, no. 2 Aaron Krickstein, no. 3 Andres Gomez, no. 4 Emilio Sanchez, no. 5 Jay Berger, no. 6 Martin Jaite, no. 8 Andrei Chesnokov, no. 9 Jim Courier, and no. 10 Thomas Muster.

Chang, who at 17 became the youngest man to win a grand slam event when he beat Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg at the French Open, has had difficulty living up to the exploit.

After rocketing up from no. 19 to no. 6 following the Paris victory, Chang has slid back to no. 12.

"I've always thought that the Roland Garros victory was premature," he said after his third straight first-round exit this year.

"It's one of those things that you wonder whether it really happened, or whether it happened in a bedtime story."

Mancini, who came of age last year on the threshold of his 20th birthday by winning titles in Monte Carlo and in Rome, also has had trouble with the sophomore syndrome.

"If you've never had a big year, everything is easy," said Mancini, who was troubled by frequent lapses in concentration against Miniussi.

"There's no pressure. No one knows you. All you have to do is go out and hit the ball. The year after is much harder. You've got a position to defend."

Mancini, who finished 1989 as no. 9 on the ATP computer, has dropped to no. 24. His 1990 tournament performances have been disappointing, although he showed signs of revival in Madrid where he reached the quarter-finals.

Rosi to fight Van Horn in June

ROME (AP) — Gianfranco Rosi of Italy will put his IBF junior middleweight title on the line in a bout June 22 against American challenger Darryn Van Horn, officials have announced. The site of the title fight was not immediately decided, said Italian promoter Renzo Spagnoli. Spagnoli said Atlantic City and an Italian resort were bidding to hold the bout, a rematch of a July title fight in which Rosi won the International Boxing Federation (IBF) crown. IBF officials had threatened to strip Rosi of his title if he did not have a match by July with Van Horn, the no. 1 challenger on the IBF list. Rosi, a former WBC champion, had been thinking of a voluntary defence following two convincing victories, against Australian Troy Watern and American Kevin Daigle.

Italian wins Tour of Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Marco Giovannetti of Italy maintained his one minute and 28 second lead over the final leg Tuesday and won the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race, a 22-day competition over 3,698 kilometres (2,292 miles).

Giovannetti, 28, is only the fourth Italian to win the prestigious Vuelta, as the race is known in Spain.

He was not listed among the favourites to win the event, but Giovannetti won the overall leader's yellow jersey on the 11th leg and wore it for the rest of the race.

Tour de France and two-time Vuelta winner Pedro Delgado of Spain finished second, followed by Anselmo Fuerte, also of Spain, who was 1:48 behind Giovannetti.

"I think it was really difficult for me to win the Vuelta, because just behind me there were some great riders and champions like Perico," Giovannetti said after the race as he sat with Delgado.

Entering last weekend's stages, Giovannetti held a 1:31 lead over the field. But Pedro Ruiz Cabestany of Spain cut the gap to 24 seconds in Sunday's leg. Giovannetti virtually assured himself a victory Monday, extending lead in the montainous 21st stage to 1:28.

The six-year professional repeatedly fought off attacks from Delgado during the 21st leg.

"He made me suffer a lot," Giovannetti said. "That was one of the worst moments."

The top positions in the overall standings were unchanged after Tuesday's stage, a 177-kilometre (110-mile) almost entirely flat route which ended along the crowd-lined streets of downtown Madrid.

Uwe Rabb of East Germany won the leg in an unofficial time of 4 hours, 44 minutes and 24 seconds, edging out Malcolm Elliott of Britain and Benny Van Brabant of Belgium in a sprint.

Giovannetti finished the 22 seats in 94 hours, 36 minutes and 40 seconds.

More than 50 of the 198 cyclists dropped out of the race, which started April 24 in the resort of Benidorm.

Delgado, who won the Vuelta in 1985 and 1989, praised Giovannetti for his endurance.

"I always say the toughest thing about wearing the yellow jersey is defending it and if Marco weren't in great form he wouldn't have been able to," he said.

England beats Denmark

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Gary Lineker swept home a second-half goal as England stretched its pre-World Cup soccer streak to 17 unbeaten games with a 1-0 victory over Denmark Tuesday.

Only 27,643 fans turned up at 80,000-capacity Wembley Stadium to see England struggle for the first half and then show its World Cup class with an impressive display of crisp passing, solid tackling and incisive attacking.

Denmark was playing under the managership of Richard Moller Nielsen for the first time.

It was a new-look English attack with John Barnes, the first division's top scorer with 28 Goals last term, teaming up with 26-goal scorer Gary Lineker.

And although it gave the Danish defence only occasional problems before the break, it looked menacing afterwards and gives manager Bobby Robson an alternative approach when the World Cup begins next month.

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HISHAM HOTEL

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as from Saturday 19.5.90

CANCELLATION

The Friends of Archaeology regret to announce the cancellation of the trip on Friday, May 18 led by Dr. Daoud Al Issawi and entitled "Wild Flowers in Jordan."

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BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOOLS QUIZ

The final round of the General Knowledge Schools Quiz between Ahliyyah School for Girls and Bishops School for Boys, will be transmitted by Radio Jordan on:
Friday 18 May 1990 at 10.30 a.m., and on Sunday 20 May 1990 at 11.00 a.m. on the F.M. 99MHZ.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN MAY FAIR (IN AID OF JORDANIAN CHARITIES)
Friday May 18, 1990, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
In the Gardens of HE British Ambassador's Residence, Jabal Amman.

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On 20th May 1990

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50 camels
20 Bedouin camel riders
10 Japanese film crew
15 Jordanian crew members
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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
ARTHUR 2
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Nastassja Kinski
In
PASSION FLOWER HOTEL

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUM** Tel: 675571
TURNER & HOOCH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
Fareed Shwaqi — Suheir Ramzi
In
THE SERVANT

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

هكذا من الأصل

China secretly executed hundreds after Tiananmen, Amnesty reports

HONG KONG (R) — Amnesty International accused China Wednesday of secretly executing hundreds of people in the wake of last year's democracy protests and demanded Peking reveal the fate of tens of thousands of people it said were detained.

In a report issued in Hong Kong, the human rights group said secret executions after the bloody military suppression of the student-led pro-democracy movement last June had been extensive.

"According to some sources, several hundred people were secretly killed in Peking alone between June and August," Amnesty said.

"The killings and arrests last year are just the most recent, dramatic examples of sweeping and persistent persecution in China," Amnesty said.

"Our message to the government there is that these human rights violations are an international concern and that international pressure will not go away."

Amnesty said it had identified 650 names of people it knew were being held. It said tens of thousands were detained after troops and tanks launched the crackdown in Peking's Tiananmen Square on June 4 when diplomats say hundreds, if not thousands, were killed.

The organisation said it had written to Chinese Premier Li Peng giving the list of 650 names and had called on the Peking leadership to reveal what had happened to all those detained.

"One year after the killings in Peking, the fate of those prisoners is still veiled in official secrecy — but they are not forgotten. We know some of their names and we want to know what has happened to them," said Amnesty.

It said many of the people detained had been arrested simply for exercising their rights.

It said it wanted news of Liu Xiaobo, who was one of four people known to have started a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square on June 2 and who later negotiated with the military for the students to withdraw.

It said Liu had urged that violence not be used and that students return weapons they had seized from the army.

"He was accused of instigating the protests and supporting armed resistance. He is reportedly held in Qincheng Prison and as far as Amnesty International knows, has not yet been charged of tried," said the report.

It also named Long Xianping, a teacher who had not been involved in the pro-democracy movement before June 4 but who was arrested later for making a speech condemning the crackdown.

It said she had been charged with counter-revolutionary incitement and jailed for two years.

The London-based pressure group also cited 16 prisoners, including Tibetan independence activists, religious leaders and supporters of the 1970s democracy movement there who where still being held in jail.

"As these cases illustrate, the pro-democracy arrests are part of a pattern of repression in China going back decades," it said.

"The government's secrecy about the prisoners arrested last year is particularly disturbing because torture and unfair trials are routine in China," it said.

"Safeguards against torture are insufficient and there is no presumption of innocence in Chinese law. Trials are often a formality, with the verdict decided beforehand."

Last week China said it had freed 211 people it described as law-breakers involved in last year's protests, a move which diplomats in Peking saw as China's most significant step towards restoring its image since Tiananmen Square.

China has never publicly said how many people were detained in the nationwide dragnet that followed June 4, but Amnesty said Peking officials maintained it was an internal matter and that only 6,000 had been detained. It quoted Chinese officials as saying several hundred had subsequently been released.

It did not say under what circumstances Chinese officials had said only 6,000 were detained.

Yeltsin faces Gorbachev ally for Russian presidency

MOSCOW (AP) — The first congress of the Russian Federation opened Wednesday with debate planned on how the largest of the Soviet republics can free itself of central control.

"Russia has no rights. It follows the lead of the centre, it has no policies of its own, foreign or domestic," political maverick Boris N. Yeltsin said at a rally Monday night.

Another highlight of the congress is expected to be the race between Yeltsin and a candidate supported by Mikhail S. Gorbachev for the newly created post of president of the Russian Federation.

If Yeltsin wins, the job would give him a political pulpit from which to challenge Gorbachev, who is the Soviet president and general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

In 1988, Yeltsin was ousted from his job as Moscow Communist party chief and his slot on the party politburo after criticising Gorbachev and party privileges. But Yeltsin, now 58, made a comeback by winning 89 per cent of the vote to represent Moscow in the national parliament.

Yeltsin and opponent Alexander Vlasov both have taken up a theme that is increasingly popular in Russia, reducing what they view as a flow of wealth from Russia to the 14 other republics.

The three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have declared independence from Moscow, claiming among other things that Russia was bleeding them dry. But that does not appear to be a popular position among the 1,059 deputies to the Russian congress.

"It's time the central government stopped biting pieces off Russia. Fifty per cent of its population lives at or below the poverty level," Yeltsin charged.

If Russia based its trade with the other republics on world prices rather than on the current system of centrally set prices, it would have earned the equivalent of $30 billion more, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said, citing a report by the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

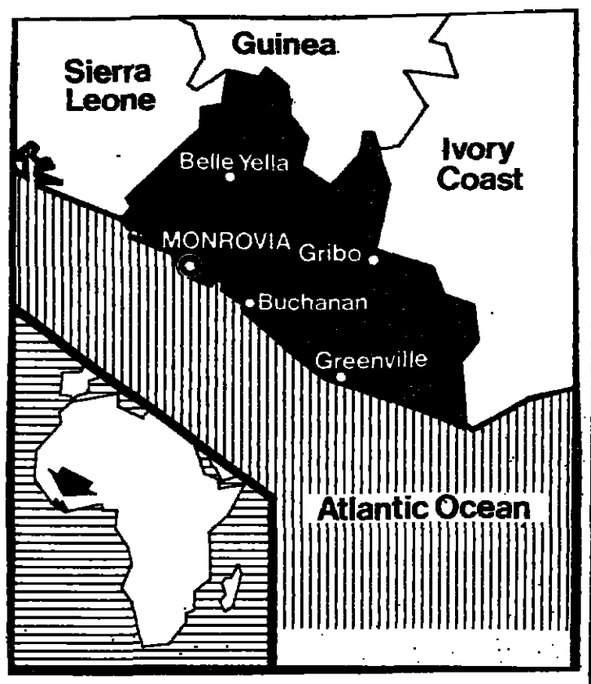
The central government collects most profits from Russian businesses and distributes 61 per cent of that to non-Russian republics.

"Deputies face the mounting challenge of reforming the republic's sliding economy, which many say has been turned into an economic donor to the other constituent republics," TASS said in a report on the opening of the congress.

In the West, Russia and the Soviet Union are sometimes regarded as one and the same. And residents of the other republics sometimes complain that Kremlin rulers have imposed much that is Russian on the rest of the country.

Russia is by far the largest of the constituent republics, stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean and embracing 11 time zones and the vast oil, gas, mineral and gold reserves of Siberia.

It includes the vast majority of the Soviet land mass and 52 per cent of its 290 million people.



Liberian soldiers accused of slaughtering villagers

TAPETA, Liberia (AP) — President Samuel Doe has said his troops have held off attacking rebel strongholds to avoid bloodshed, but residents of rebel territory say government soldiers slaughtered their neighbours.

On a two-day trip conducted by Charles Taylor's rebels, journalists were shown a pile of 15 bodies and heard villagers tell of rape and killings.

The trip covered three counties comprising the country's main food-producing and mining areas. The rebels were clearly in control of the region.

Villagers waved, danced and shouted support for rebels as cars draped with the rebels' red insignia drove through.

When Taylor drove into Tapeta, in a thirteen-vehicle convoy protected by 200 armed men and an ageing anti-aircraft gun, scores of civilians waved palm fronds and welcomed him as a saviour.

"Our leader, Mr. Taylor," they chanted.

The trip began when reporters were met by a representative of Taylor inside Ivory Coast Sunday and escorted to a dense forest path and across St. John's River, which forms the frontier with Ivory Coast.

They were driven Monday to within 48 kilometres of Buchanan, the main Atlantic Ocean port.

No vehicles were seen except those driven by rebels. Crude roadblocks of rope with a red triangular flag were manned by villagers armed with shotguns.

Since Taylor's men invaded from Ivory Coast on Dec. 24, more than ory Coast on Dec. 24, more than 350,000 people are estimated to have fled the fighting, more than half of them going into neighbouring Ivory Coast or Guinea.

Doe's troops have been accused of slaughtering civilians, particularly members of the Gio or Mano tribes, Taylor's tribal base.

On Monday, reporters were shown a pile of 15 corpses at the village of Saithom. Elizabeth Kpue, 27, said soldiers rounded up people and shot them before fleeing the advancing rebels.

"They just shot her. My little girl. She was only 4," Mrs. Kpue said of her child.

Mrs. Kpue was interviewed at a hospital on the Liberian Agricultural Co. rubber plantation, owned by a U.S. company.

Survivors said at least 32 people were killed and they feared other bodies had been dumped in the bush. Survivors said some women were raped.

"They killed my brother and my auntie and my cousin. Then they forced me," said a 13-year-old girl who a doctor said had been raped.

The doctor, Wilmot Harris, who is in charge of the hospital, said 36 of 46 people he treated for wounds inflicted by the government forces were women or children.

At a news conference in a Tapeta Radio station, Taylor was confident of victory and reiterated his warning for residents of Monrovia, the capital, to flee before rebels attack.

His promises to end corruption echoed those made by Doe 10 years ago when he took power in a coup, seizing control of the country from descendants of the former American slaves who had founded it in 1848.

Taylor said he planned to install a transitional government and saw no role for opposition parties that have been harassed by Doe, until he decided to have elections. He said that transitional period could last from 3-5 years.

Van Gogh sells for record $82.5m

NEW YORK (R) — A haunting blue portrait by Vincent Van Gogh of his doctor has stunned the art market by selling for $82.5 million, smashing the world record for the sale of a painting by almost $30 million.

"Portrait of Doctor Gachet" was bought by a Japanese dealer — who had apparently been willing to go even higher — for an unnamed Japanese corporation.

But the record sale Tuesday failed to allay fears in the art market, fuelled by two disappointing contemporary art sales last week in which many works remained unsold, that the art boom is over.

Dealers worried over last week's sales were at first encouraged by Tuesday's record, but at the end of the evening auction at Christie's, 24 of the 81 art works offered remained unsold, leading many dealers to believe that the five-year boom in art sales had run out of steam.

"I am personally and absolutely thrilled at what happened," said Christie's head auctioneer, Christopher Burge. "The Van Gogh is certainly one of the greatest painting we've ever offered for sale and there are only two or three in our long history that we've ever had of this quality."

Christie's cleared $269.4 million which Burge said set a record for an evening sale. The figure fell far below the presale high estimate of $334.9 million.

Bidding for the portrait of Van Gogh's friend and doctor, painted only six weeks before the artist committed suicide in 1890, started at $20 million and jumped in million-dollar increments.

"Things slowed around $40 million and then again around $50 million and then this tremendous battle ensued," Burge said.

The crowd gasped when bidding reached $50 million, just short of the record $53.9 million paid in 1987 by Australian industrialist Alan Bond for Van Gogh's "irises." They gave the final price a standing ovation.

Tokyo art dealer Hideto Kobayashi, who joined the bidding in the high $30 million range, told reporters: "I'm very glad to get the painting. I had made my mind up to get the work."

He said the unidentified Japanese corporation he was acting for had been willing to pay virtually any price. The mystery buyer also picked up the only other Van Gogh being sold, A Self-Portrait which went for $26.4 million.

Kobayashi said he planned to attend Thursday's auction at Sotheby's, where Pierre Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette," goes up for sale. The Cafe Scene, one of Renoir's best-known works, is expected to sell for $40 million to $50 million.

"Portrait of Doctor Gachet," sold from the collection of Siegfried Kramarsky, a German-born New York banker and philanthropist who died in 1961, has hung on loan in the Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1984.

Dealers and auction houses had been counting heavily on the portrait to break a record after last week's contemporary sales, at which over 35 per cent of the works went unsold.

"This was not an upswing in the market after last week, but it certainly represents a solidifying of the market at levels we can all understand," Burge said Tuesday.

Eight records were set for artists' works, including $9.9 million for Marc Chagall's "Above the City," $13 million for Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's "Girl with Fur," and $4.1 million for Salvador Dali's "Assumpta Corpuscularia Lapislazulina."

"No particular areas showed any great significant interest. There was just general interest across the board and my hope is that it will bring some sanity and sense to the market," Burge said.

The failure of the contemporary sales last week helped fuel a 20 per cent drop in Sotheby's stock and some dealers had speculated that the art market boom was finally over after years of skyrocketing prices.

Burge said he felt the era of a speculative art market was in fact over, despite the high price for the Van Gogh.

"People won't be making double their money in a few months any more," he said.

Japanese coin makes auction record

Meanwhile, a Japanese 20-yen gold coin, worth about £4 (then $20) when it was minted in 1880, sold for £104,500 ($174,500) in London Tuesday, Christie's auction house said.

COLUMN

Irish Anglicans vote for women priests

DUBLIN (AP) — Leaders of the Anglican Church of Ireland, after 12 years of debate, have voted in favour of ordaining women priests. The decision by the clergy and laity who voted separately in the church's General Synod session must to be approved by a vote of the whole synod Thursday. It will require a two-thirds majority but seems certain to succeed as a two-thirds majority was secured in each in Tuesday's votes. The clergy voted 129-59 and the laity 242-61 on a recommendation made by last year's synod. The figures were announced by the church's leader, Archbishop of Armagh Robert Eames, primate of all Ireland. The Church of Ireland has 410,000 members in both parts of Ireland. Most of them living in British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Sphinx under observation

CAIRO (R) — Scholars are puzzling over the latest riddle posed by the sphinx — why the 4,600-year-old monument is deteriorating so quickly in Egypt's desert sands. American and Egyptian experts have said they had put an instrument to measure sun, wind and rain on top of the 75-metre pharaonic statue, which has the body of a lion and the face of a human. "If you have a sick person, you take him to see a doctor. Then the doctor provides the diagnosis and prescribes medicine," Philippa Calnan of the California-based Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) told Reuters. The Limestone Sphinx — which in Greek mythology asked riddles of travellers and killed them if they could not answer — is suffering unprecedented flaking and crumbling, especially along its sides, GCI says. Restoration work by the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) has come under fire for allegedly making the problem worse, with a cement casing reacting with the stone and producing eroding salt particles.

Italian police seize 4,000 false works of art

ROME (R) — Italian police have said they had seized 4,000 false works of art, including counterfeit pictures falsely attributed to Picasso, in a raid on a home for retired artists near Naples. A 50-year-old professor at Rome's Fine Arts Academy, the owner of the retirement home, had been charged with art forgery. The police said the home near Macerata, north of Naples, contained a fully equipped studio for forging pictures by well known artists, including 20th century Italian painters Renato Guttuso and Giorgio de Chirico.

'Widows' looking for some body to love

MANILA (R) — A Philippine general has told his men to put on record who their real wives are, saying it confuses the military when more than one woman shows up to claim the body of a dead soldier. "The problem here is that we used to reckon that the one who wails the loudest ought to be the legitimate wife," said General Pantaleon Dumalo. "Lately, however, mistresses have been outcrying the real wives." Dumlao, chief investigator of the Paramilitary Constabulary, told soldiers in Iloilo province Monday to straighten out their personnel forms specifying their beneficiaries. "Before you die, choose who among your 'wives' you love most to forestall problems," the Manila newspaper Philippine Star quoted Dumlao as saying. "We don't know whom to send the corpse because sometimes our soldiers have more than two 'wives.'"

1 in 20 Italians obsessed with sex

ROME (R) — One in every 20 Italians is obsessed by sex, a psychiatrist has said. Professor Piero de Giacomo told reporters that according to a study he had made five per cent of men and women in Italy had excessive sexual appetites. "For these people sex is an end in itself. They have numerous partners, often more than one at the same time, make use of pornographic films and photographs and sometimes use violence in sexual relations." De Giacomo, who runs the Bari University Psychiatric Department, compared obsession with sex to drug addiction or alcoholism.

Environment aides meet in Sweden to settle row with U.S.

BERGEN, Norway (R) — Ministers from 34 countries struggled Wednesday to overcome divisions and present a common approach to the environment.

A three-day conference of environment ministers from East and West Europe and North America was due to end Wednesday with a declaration on common goals for fighting pollution despite radical differences in national policies.

The main sticking points were over carbon dioxide emissions and the cost of protecting the Earth's ozone layer, delegates said.

Environmentalists, who say any accord would be toothless, demonstrated outside the ministers' hotel in Norway's West Coast city of Bergen until early Wednesday morning displaying banners saying: "Bergen meeting, just talk and eating."

The meeting is one of four regional conferences to prepare for world environment talks in Brazil in 1992 and the first time ministers from East and West Europe have met since the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

After talks lasting late into the night, the United States was still refusing to give new cash to Third World countries to help them protect the ozone layer.

After a few hours' break, ministers resumed talks on a compromisé reaffirming support for ozone protection but without clearly promising new funds for the Third World. Many European states wanted a clearer statement of support.

The U.S. fears any new aid to help poor nations with an environmental clean-up could lead to massive new spending. Other ministers say new aid would be only part of a fund of around $250 million to help protect the ozone layer.

The United States, Canada and Britain were also refusing to set firm dates for stabilising emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas held chiefly responsible for blanketing the globe and raising temperatures.

Some Western industrial nations have already set national policies of stabilising carbon dioxide emissions — mostly produced by cars, homes and industry by burning fossil fuels — by the year 2000.

The United States argued that stabilising emissions would cost hundreds of billions of dollars and that more research is needed.

Pan Am blast report stirs controversy

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. presidential commission studying the bombing of Pan American Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, has urged the use of military force against terrorists and sharply criticised U.S. aviation security.

The controversial report was generally well received by U.S. relatives of the victims of flight 103, who said the commission was leading the fight against international terrorism, but the recommendation to use military force was opposed by British victims.

Reacting to the report, the federal aviation administration admitted that mistakes were made in the tragedy that took 270 lives.

But Pan Am Chairman Thomas Plaskett said it was premature to criticise security procedures before investigators have completed their criminal inquiry, and said the report "unfairly characterises the Pan Am security system before, during and after Lockerbie."

The report released Tuesday called on the United States to act more forcefully to deter terrorist aggression by taking actions that include preemptive military strikes and covert operations. It also said countries that harbour terrorists should be singled out and pay a price for their protection.

Jim Swire, spokesman for the U.K. Families-Flight 103 Committee, said: "Lockerbie was a revenge attack paid for by Iran. To kill Iranians and Syrians in return is only going to make the situation worse and produce more grieving families."

Sir Hector Monroe, the member of parliament for the area around Lockerbie, said attacks on countries suspected of backing extremist groups could lead to war.

The hardline report, presented to President George Bush, was greeted with caution by the White House. Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater would only say that "we certainly agree that we have to be as aggressive as necessary to fight terrorism."

The report raised profound questions about U.S. airline security administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Pan American World Airways, whose flight blew up on Dec. 21, 1988, over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people including 11 on the ground.

"The commission's inquiry also finds that the U.S. Civil Aviation security system is seriously flawed and has failed to provide the proper level of protection to the travelling public," the report said.

Split deepens in crisis-ridden Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — Political splits widened in deeply divided Yugoslavia Wednesday after a leading Croatian politician accused the country's new president of threatening his republic.

Franjo Tudjman, head of the Croatian Democratic Union which won recent free elections in the republic, attacked President Borisav Jovic for accusing Croatia of pushing Yugoslavia towards civil war and disintegration by demanding more independence.

Tudjman made his comments just hours after Jovic, a Serb, took office. His remarks showed how difficult it will be for Yugoslavia's leaders to reach consensus in the multi-ethnic country which is divided into a non-Communist northwest and a Communist-ruled southern half.

The accusations opened a dangerous row between Croatia and Serbia, the two biggest and most powerful republics. Politicians and diplomats say the future of Yugoslavia could hang on their relationship, the Balkan federation's traditional linchpin.

Referring to Jovic's attack on Croatia's plans to seek greater autonomy, Tudjman told Croatian television late Tuesday: "That part of the speech was not only threatening but contradictory."

"In Croatia democratic processes and democratic striving have won and there is no force that could stop democracy," said Tudjman, who is expected to become Croatia's president when his party officially takes power in the republic.

Stipe Suvar, Croatia's representative on the eight-man collective state presidency headed by Jovic, had earlier dissociated himself from the new president's comments in his inaugural speech.

"Jovic spoke in his own name and other members of the presidency may or may not agree with him," Suvar said.

Jovic, 62, said Yugoslavia, a federation of eight republics and provinces, was close to civil war and falling apart. It is ravaged by economic crisis, power struggles and growing nationalism.

He accused Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia of hastening this collapse by demanding that Yugoslavia become a confederation — a looser union giving each region more autonomy. They have also threatened to secede.

Tudjman suggested Jovic's comments were contradictory because he said he was ready to discuss enshrining the idea of a "confederation" in the constitution while also attacking it.

The victory of Tudjman's party, which campaigned on a nationalist platform, and of a centre-right coalition in Slovenia in free elections in recent weeks has sharpened ethnic tensions.

U.S., Philippine aides clash over compensation for bases

MANILA (R) — The United States and the Philippines clashed Wednesday over compensation for American military bases, with Manila arguing Washington was failing to pay the agreed price.

Rafael Alunan, spokesman for the Philippine negotiating panel, told reporters the U.S. failure to fulfill financial commitments on the bases "could endanger the future of our talks with the United States."

The United States rejected allegations it was failing to live up to its commitments under a 1988 agreement.

American delegation spokesman Stanley Schrager quoted U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage as saying "that he is not an accountant, he does not stand next to a cash register when conducting foreign relations, and he does not put a price tag on Philippine honour and sovereignty."

Hungary wants to leave Warsaw Pact — president

NEW YORK (R) — Hungary's Newly-formed non-Communist government will want to leave the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact but it will have to find a way that will satisfy all parties, including the Soviet Union, President Arpad Goncz said Tuesday.

At a brief press conference here after meeting U.S. Jewish leaders, Goncz also said Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia's bids for independence "cannot be stopped."

Goncz, a writer and founder of the Free Democratic Party who spent six years in jail after the 1956 Hungarian revolution, said, "It is the opinion of the new Hungarian government that Hungary will sooner or later leave it (the Warsaw Pact)."

Romanian TV begins last minute lesson on democracy

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian television has begun a last-minute lesson in democracy for voters who have not seen a free election for more than 50 years but must now choose between 80 parties and a host of independents.

State-run television began its lessons Tuesday night and will repeat them at peak viewing hours every day until Sunday when the 16 million voters will choose a president and a two-chamber parliament.

Three candidates are contesting the presidency, there are more than 5,500 candidates for the 387-seat assembly of deputies and 1,500 more are running for a 119-seat senate.

The country is divided into 40 multi-seat constituencies plus Bucharest. In each of them, parties or independents will gain seats in proportion to their percentage of the total vote.

Nowhere do the inexperienced voters face a more complex task than in the capital where each of them will be handed a 32-page ballot book for the assembly and another of 14 pages for the senate. Even the three presidential candidates require a four-page pamphlet.

Armed with these, a rubber stamp to mark them and an envelope to put them in, the voters must sort through nearly 1,000 contestants, identified by names and symbols, for the 39 Bucharest assembly seats and 300 for the 14 senate places.

For the presidency, the order of the names on the ballot papers coincidentally reflects the likely result.

Interim President Ion Iliescu of the ruling National Salvation Front tops the ballot followed by Radu Campeanu of the National Liberals and Ion Ratiu of the National Peasants Party.

The winning candidate must gain the support of more than half the eligible voters — about eight million votes.

If none of them has done so when results are announced, probably on May 22, the two leaders will enter a second round of voting on June 3 when a simple majority would decide the winner.

In voting for the assemblies, if less than half eligible voters turn up in any constituency, a new election will be held there two weeks later.

But officials have forecast that 90 per cent of the electorate will come to the 12,372 polling stations, open from 6 a.m. (0300GMT) to 11 p.m. (2000GMT) on May 20.

Voters will have to show identification cards which will be marked to avoid anyone trying to vote twice. The sale of alcohol will be banned Saturday and on election day, when police and military forces will cordon off a 500 metre radius around polling stations.